



Prunskiene seeks intermediary

Soviet troops sent to Latvia and Estonia

By Mary Dejevsky in Moscow and Our Foreign Staff

SPECIAL troops are being sent to the restive Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia to keep order after riots in their capitals, Tass said last night.

Their deployment to reinforce local garrisons came as Soviet soldiers were reported to have shot dead a youth trying to enter a military compound in the third rebel Baltic republic of Lithuania. Tension there persisted in spite of President Gorbachev's declaration yesterday that the Kremlin was prepared to examine any possibility to resolve its differences with Lithuania, provided the Soviet constitutional process was observed.

Mr Gorbachev spent two hours with Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister on Thursday, a meeting Mrs Prunskiene described as a big step forward

in that it took place at all. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, she said the Kremlin had departed from its previous official position in calling only for the "temporary suspension" of the republic's March 11 declaration of independence and not its abrogation. But she added: "I still have very many doubts about Soviet intentions of moving towards resolution of the problem."

Lithuanian representatives in Moscow are actively seeking a third-party guarantor to oversee the transition to independence. They fear that if the elected parliament agreed to suspend its independence declaration, it might be summarily abolished. Mrs Prunskiene yesterday visited the British, Canadian and Norwegian embassies in Moscow, and one of the reasons for those calls appears to have been the quest to find an intermediary to make sure the Soviet Union kept any undertakings it gave about Lithuanian independence.

Mrs Prunskiene also met the American Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, who is in Moscow to finalize preparations for the Washington summit on superpower arms talks at the end of the month. Afterwards, he said: "We're very hopeful that a dialogue can begin and we find it very encouraging that Mrs Prunskiene was able to meet with President Gorbachev."

At that meeting, Mrs Prunskiene handed the Soviet leader a document detailing an offer to suspend all legislation proceeding from the declaration of independence for a transitional period, during which the republic's "independence, integrity and the functioning of its mandated authorities" would be guaranteed, and putting forward five specific proposals:

- Talks on co-operation between Lithuania and the Soviet Union to ensure Soviet security, the security of the republic's western border and communications with the Kaliningrad region, which is administered directly from Moscow;
- An attempt to find a compromise between Lithuania's promise to guarantee its citizens the right to perform military service or not and the Soviet need to ensure its security interests;
- The need to draw up bilateral agreements on economic and property relations between the republic and the Soviet Union "in such a way as to preserve and increase economic and transport links";
- Talks on the establishment

of direct ties between Lithuania with other states and trading partners.

● The drawing-up of guarantees for the social and property rights of Soviet citizens in Lithuania.

A spokesman for the Lithuanian delegates in Moscow, Mr Audrejus Butkevicius, said Mrs Prunskiene had tried to discuss some specific points, in particular the month-old economic blockade and the question of compulsory military service, but Mr Gorbachev insisted that none could be discussed until the main dispute over the republic's unilateral declaration of independence had been resolved satisfactorily.

Mr Butkevicius also emphasized the tense atmosphere in the republic and the real danger of unrest if a spark were ignited. He said the disturbances in Latvia and Estonia earlier this week between Russians and native Balts had been a precursor of the sort of "provocation" that might be mounted on a bigger scale in Lithuania.

On Monday, Mr Gorbachev declared the independence moves of Latvia and Estonia invalid, following the strict tone he adopted with Lithuania, and on Thursday, the Soviet Procurator's office ordered prosecutors in the two republics to crack down on violations of the Soviet constitution and to ensure that Soviet laws were enforced. P.O.-Moscow residents tried to storm the two republic's parliaments to protest against the independence drives on Tuesday, but were repelled. No serious injuries were reported and local activists said the police and interior ministry troops behaved well. It was to help those troops that reinforcements were sent in yesterday, although the number of men being deployed has not been disclosed.

The shooting incident in Lithuania yesterday came after several complaints of rock-throwing at sniper attacks on Soviet soldiers at military installations. There are suggestions, however, that if Moscow decided to take military action in the republic it might not be able to count on the loyalty of its troops in the Baltic. Increasingly, it is said, they are understanding the depth of feeling in the republic and fear the sort of conflict between Russians and the indigenous people that resulted from Soviet military intervention in Baku.

Troop cuts, page 10

Arms control talks showing progress

Moscow progress had been made on an arms control treaty that would crown the coming superpower summit, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday after talks with Mr James Baker, the United States Secretary of State.

Mr Baker had earlier reported progress in five hours of talks with Mr Shevardnadze and President Mikhail Gorbachev, adding that he would provide details at a news conference today.

Mr Shevardnadze said he

always believed the United States and Soviet Union could meet the target set by their leaders at the Malta summit last December by agreeing the main points of a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start).

"We are moving in that direction," he told reporters at a ceremony to present a medal to a US citizen who helped to save victims of the 1988 Armenian earthquake. "We did a lot," Mr Shevardnadze said big advances had been made on a chemical weapons agreement. (Reuters)

Talks progress, page 8



Pratt: Herr Kohl, right, the West German Chancellor, and Herr de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister, raising a glass in Bonn to the signing yesterday of the accord making the Deutschmark the sole German currency and paving the way to reunification. Report, page 8

Prestwick attracts European airline

By Kerry Gill

A NEW airline is to introduce flights linking Prestwick Airport with several European cities, including Brussels, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The announcement yesterday, by Mr George Younger, deputy chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and former Secretary of State for Defence, will enhance the airport's role after its loss in status two months ago, as Scotland's transatlantic gateway.

Emerald Air, based in Belfast, hopes to begin operations in November and proposes a twice-daily service between Prestwick and London City airport.

In addition to flights to Belgium, The Netherlands and Iceland, links with Stavanger in Norway, and Edinburgh are also proposed.

Mr Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, said Emerald Air would provide a significant contribution to Prestwick's future viability and it was hoped that at least two North American carriers would be encouraged to begin operations from the airport as a result.

He said that the Government's "Open Skies" policy, which has allowed transatlantic flights from Glasgow and Edinburgh, had been wrong and once new transport links were completed, Prestwick could look forward to a new era as an international airport.

Mr Bill Best, managing director of Emerald Air said 60 jobs would be created, divided between Belfast and Prestwick.

Engineers employed by Shell Expro yesterday managed to rectify faults on the Brent Alpha platform which had forced the shutdown of the Flaga gas pipeline serving 15 North Sea installations late on Thursday.

The shutdown had threatened to send oil prices spiralling on the markets as output is interdependent on gas production.

New services, page 6

Tory deposit lost in Ulster vote

By Edward Gorman

THE Conservative Party's first venture into Northern Ireland electoral politics for 70 years ended in humiliation yesterday when their candidate lost her deposit in the Upper Bann by-election.

The seat was retained comfortably by the Ulster Unionist Party, with its candidate, Mr David Trimble, topping the poll with a majority of 13,849, slightly down on the party's performance at the General Election in 1987.

Mrs Colette Jones, the Conservative candidate, came sixth, polling just 1,038 votes, almost 1,000 votes behind Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, which came third. Mrs Jones was among eight of the record 11 candidates standing who lost their £500 deposit.

The votes cast were: Mr David Trimble (UUP) 20,547; Mrs Brid Rodgers (SDLP) 6,698; Ms Sheena Campbell (Sinn Féin) 2,033; The Rev Hugh Ross (Ulster Independence) 1,534; Mr Tom French (Workers Party) 1,083; Mrs Colette Jones (C) 1,038; Mr William Ramsay (Alliance)

948; Mr Gary McMichael (Ulster Democratic Party) 600; Peter Doran (Green) 576; Mr Erskine Holmes (Right to Vote Labour) 235; Alistair Dunn (SDP) 154.

The result will fuel further criticism from within the Conservative Party over the decision to introduce a by-election in Ireland, taken at last year's party conference.

Mr Trimble, aged 45, a law lecturer at Queen's University in Belfast, told cheering supporters at Banbridge, County Down, that the result demonstrated the united and determined opposition of Unionists to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which he said was the principal election issue.

Political analysts blamed the poor showing for Mrs Jones on her apparent support for the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the fact that Upper Bann was not regarded as a strong Conservative area, and on her support of the community charge, which will not be introduced in the province.

Trimble's victory, page 4

Election strategy divides Cabinet

By Sheila Guna, Political Reporter

Senior members of the Cabinet are at odds over moves to set up a ministerial "A team" this summer to start work on the Conservative manifesto for the general election.

A strong group within the Cabinet is arguing that, if the Conservatives are to stay in power to the end of the century, they must not lose their radical edge by giving away the political initiative to Labour. They are understood to include Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy Prime Minister, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for Environment.

They have met with resistance, however, from Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, who believes a manifesto committee fashioned on the last administration's ministerial A team should not be formed until after the Conservative Party conference in October.

In the face of conflicting advice, the Prime Minister is believed to side with Mr Baker in being reluctant to provoke a

summer of speculation over the future direction of the party. The breach hinges on whether the Government should aim for a "quiet summer" after the bruising over the poll tax, the leadership issue and the economy or keep up the momentum of the "Thatcherite revolution" by drawing up a new agenda.

The Prime Minister and her key advisers are also believed to be looking for six months of calm, competent government before plunging into the business of preparing for the next manifesto. As disclosed in *The Times* yesterday, Mr Baker will today signal the party's summer offensive against the Opposition's blueprint for a Labour government.

His strategy is to damage Labour's opinion poll showing and to sell the Tory policies coming on stream this year before getting to work on the new agenda.

Sir Geoffrey and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, both said the Government had to set out its vision of the future.

'BSE' test on dead cat

Pathologists in Northern Ireland are conducting a post mortem on a cat suspected of dying from a feline version of the "mad cow" disease. The cat had shown symptoms similar to those displayed by a five-year-old Siamese, diagnosed in Bristol as having succumbed to a condition similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Guerin fine

Parent industries, a company wholly-owned by Mr James Guerin, the former deputy chairman of Ferranti, has pleaded guilty in the US to racketeering and agreed to pay a \$4.4m fine.

Smoke clue

Smoke drifting under the cockpit door of the jet which crashed on the M1 could have been the clue leading the crew to assume they had a problem with the right-hand engine, the inquest heard.

Record soccer fee of £7.7m

AN ITALIAN footballer changed clubs yesterday for a fee of £7.7 million, a world record for a single player.

Roberto Baggio, aged 23, a midfielder for Fiorentina and Italy, had signed a three-year contract with the Turin club, Juventus, but would not confirm claims that his new club had paid £16 billion lire for his services.

Juventus, one of the richest clubs in the world because of their association with Fiat, beat Fiorentina in the UEFA Cup final last week.

Until yesterday, the record fee for a player was £5.5 million, which was paid by AC Milan to PSV Eindhoven for the Dutch player, Ruud Gullit, in 1987.

Record bid, page 45

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The Japanese art lover's £94m spending spree

From Joe Joseph Tokyo



Mr Ryoei Saito: \$100m ceiling for paintings

TO PICK up one multi-million dollar masterpiece in a week could be considered fortunate, to pick up two might be just a little callous. Mr Ryoei Saito, the Japanese tycoon who this week paid \$160 million (£94 million) for two paintings by Van Gogh and Renoir, is unrepentant. "I know that some people will criticize what I have done," he said yesterday. "But I believe in 50 to 100 years' time they will understand."

"Following these purchases," said Miss Tomoko Inukai, one of Japan's all-purpose television commentators, "Japan's image as a nouveau riche nation has been aggravated."

Mr Saito - aged 74, hugely rich, head of Japan's second biggest paper manufacturer, and the man who has made gallery owners rethink their price tags -

is not much concerned with carpers. He was willing to pay even more than the record \$82.5 million he stumped up on Tuesday for Van Gogh's haunting "Portrait of Dr Gache" and the \$78.1 million he paid two days later for Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette". "I told the dealers that \$100 million was the ceiling for each painting," he said yesterday. "I am very happy. Once you like something, you should go all the way. I don't think the prices were expensive."

"Works by Van Gogh or Renoir rarely go on sale, so I'm very lucky. What's more, I think it's wonderful that these masterpieces will come to Japan."

If the prices seemed secondary to Mr Saito it may be because he, like many of today's more fashionable businessmen, went to his bankers rather than his bank account to pay for the paintings.

"Debit can be counted as assets"

remains one of his pet sayings even though many other tycoons in Australia, America and Europe - some of them Van Gogh collectors - have found recently their creditors not so understanding.

Mr Saito's company, Daishowa Paper, was founded by his father, Chichiro, in 1938 in Shizuoka, central Japan. Ryoei turned an already thriving business into Japan's second biggest paper maker and one of the Tokyo stock market's bluest chip shares. Last year he was the 32nd biggest taxpayer in Japan with a bill for 790 million yen.

Having landed a couple of unexpected bargains, Mr Saito decided to use the rest of the borrowed cash earmarked for the two paintings but now burning a hole in his pocket to buy a Rodin sculpture at the Sotheby's sale in New York on Thursday. "It was only 650 million yen."

Continued on page 16, col 5

REVIEW

Woman who split a town



When Elisabeth Peire, a married woman with two sons, was chosen to play the Virgin Mary in the Oberammergau passion play it broke a 300-year tradition. It also provoked open hostility. George Hill reports from a town divided: Page 29

An outsider made good

Sir Peter Hall spent a childhood in Suffolk with parents of modest ambition who never went abroad. "It wasn't so much a class gap as an education gap between us," he tells Ray Connolly: Page 31

Alternative meats

British beef has had a bad week with concern over mad cow disease, but there are alternatives. Robin Young reports on the increasing popularity of organic meat and Frances Bissell offers recipes using meat substitutes: Page 35

TRAVEL

Heading into the unknown

No one knows what will happen in Hong Kong when it is returned to China in 1997. Shona Crawford Poole knows the city as it is now and offers a traveller's guide to its high-intensity life: Page 53

SPORT

Leighton in Scots squad

Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper dropped by Manchester United for the Cup Final replay has kept his place in Scotland's World Cup squad and will go to Italy: Page 45

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OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR
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ONLY MAKING A FEW.

Smoke wisp
in cockpit
may have led
to confusion

As you sit back in the comfort of your Citroën BX Meteor, spare a thought for those less fortunate.

Drivers of Cavaliers, Sierras and Renault 21s, for example. Poor souls who will have paid rather more for cars which offer considerably less.

Not for them the admiring glances drawn by that unique,

CITROËN BX METEOR

mercury-grey metallic paintwork or purposeful GTi spoiler.

Not for them the quiet satisfaction of sporty red and black velour upholstery, complementing the elegantly black dashboard and trim. Nor the effortless ease of responsive power steering.

Sadly, some of them won't even have electric front windows, an electric sunroof or central locking. And none will have their journeys smoothed by that legendary Citroën ride.

Of course, many of these deprived drivers will deserve very little sympathy. If they chose the wrong car, they have no one to blame but themselves and their lack of imagination.

The ones our hearts should really go out to are those who desperately wanted a BX Meteor but were denied the privilege by the limited supplies.

On the other hand, if they didn't move fast enough, the BX Meteor is obviously not the car for them.



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Little ships of Dunkirk assemble for return voyage

By John Young

TWENTY-SIX of the surviving "little ships" of Dunkirk are assembled at Dover to prepare for next week's Channel crossing to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the evacuation. Mr David Rolt, commodore of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, said yesterday that he hoped the flotilla would be 80-strong by the time it sails for France next Thursday.

"A lot of them are quite close to not being ready," Mr Rolt said. A number of the boats were in regular use and well maintained but others were "in a terrible state", having been rescued after years of

abandonment and were still being prepared for the voyage.

"Inevitably with 80 old ladies, there is going to be a breakdown or two," Mr Rolt said, but the fleet would be escorted by two Royal Navy ships, a frigate and a minesweeper, as well as a Brixham trawler and two lifeboats.

One of the most elegant boats in the fleet, Tahilla, is owned by Mr Jerry Lewis, the association's rear commodore, whose wife, Peggy, is its secretary. Mr Lewis, an insurance consultant, bought Tahilla, a twin-screw motor sailer built in 1922, 20 years ago, but did not discover until later

that she had been at Dunkirk. He is hoping to take one of the veterans of the evacuation on the expedition and expects to welcome many others on board in Dunkirk. "But hardly any of them are under 70 and a lot of them are just not fit to do the whole journey. It's a very long day."

Fifty years ago last Monday an announcement was made on the BBC that the Admiralty had requested all owners of self-propelled pleasure craft between 30ft and 100ft in length to send all particulars within 14 days if they had not already been requisitioned. The "request" was, in fact, an order. Under wartime regulations,

private yachts could be requisitioned for harbour defence and a number were already in use as naval auxiliaries.

On May 26, 1940, a coded telegram was sent by the War Office to the Admiralty stating that the emergency evacuation of troops from the French beaches was under consideration and that, if it went ahead, it was to be known as "Operation Dynamo". The name was derived from the control centre at Dover, a generating station overlooking the harbour. The rest has passed into legend.

In the spring of 1964, Mr Raymond Baxter, the BBC commentator, bought one

of the surviving little ships and, at his son's suggestion, decided to organize a return to Dunkirk. With the help of *The Sunday Times*, whose then editor, the late Sir Denis Hamilton, was one of those taken off the beaches, 43 vessels were assembled for the reunion.

The association now has more than 120 members who have been granted the right, traditionally reserved for admirals of the Royal Navy, to fly the Cross of St George at the bows of their boat on special occasions. The Duke of Edinburgh will pay an informal visit to the assembled flotilla next Wednesday afternoon.

Smoke wisp in cockpit may have led to confusion

By Harvey Elliott

A WISP of smoke which seeped into the cockpit could be the first real clue as to why the pilots of the British Midland 737 which crashed on the M1 shut down the wrong engine, it was disclosed yesterday.

Captain Kevin Hunt, aged 44, told the inquest at the coroners' court in Loughborough, Leicestershire, into the death of the 47 victims of the disaster that he had spotted the smoke coming into the cockpit under the cabin door.

Captain Hunt, who has been confined to a wheelchair since breaking his back in the crash in January last year, said the smoke indicated to him that the right-hand engine could have been the cause of the problem because it feeds air into the cabin's air conditioning system, while the left-hand engine provides air for the cockpit.

Mr Charles Haddon-Cave, counsel for the survivors and the victims' families, asked Captain Hunt: "After you smelled the strong smell of hot oil you saw a thin trail of smoke which appeared to be coming through the cockpit door, and you later mentioned it was the position of the smoke and your knowledge of the air-conditioning system which led you to think it was the right-hand engine which was probably the source of the problem?"

"That is correct," Captain Hunt replied. He told Mr Philip Tomlinson, the coroner, that he would never shut down an engine on the evidence of a wisp of smoke alone, but said: "I can only assume that with the smell and the sight of it we had a possible incipient fire in the engine."

"It had not started burning, but heating up, and I did not want to wait for it to burst into flames, where you are making a situation which is not a particularly pleasant one into one which is considerably worse."

Captain Hunt, like his co-pilot, Mr David McClelland, said he could not recall many of the details of the flight from Heathrow to Belfast. In the crash his back was broken and both his legs, feet and ankles were crushed.

He agreed that he had throttled back and eventually shut down the right-hand engine and that that engine was in good working order throughout the flight.

Captain Hunt said the first he recalled was the smell of hot oil and metal and looking round the cockpit to see the thin trail of smoke coming under the cockpit door. He said he knew from the smell that the problem lay in an engine, but told the inquest he could not recall the conversa-

tion he and his co-pilot then had. He said he remembered shutting off the auto-pilot, which had the effect of stabilizing the vibration on the flight deck, and led him to assume that he had carried out the correct action on the correct engine.

Captain Hunt said he then remembered Mr McClelland pointing at something. "What it was I don't remember," he said. Later he told the inquest that Mr McClelland was pointing towards the instrument panel.

The inquest was told he then remembered thinking about shutting down the engine, and assumed that Mr McClelland had followed out the procedures for doing so.

His next recollection of the crash, said Captain Hunt, was of a fire warning sounding in the cockpit and trying to make for East Midlands airport. "I remember we had to try and avoid Kegworth and the M1," he said. "There is a piece of moderately flat land the other side of the M1 but we did not get that far."

Captain Hunt said that, as the aircraft headed for disaster, he remembered ordering Mr McClelland to try to restart the right-hand engine. "We had not got time to start it and it was purely a mind removal exercise," he said. "David was having to sit there and watch what was going to happen and I gave him something to think about."

He said the next few seconds' work were the hardest that he had ever had to do. "There were two particular places to avoid - the village of Kegworth and the M1."

Captain Hunt, who flew both the 737-300 and the 737-400 variants, said that he did not find the new electronic instruments in the 400 as good as the needles and pointers in those on the 300.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch report into the disaster will not be published for some months.

It is known to contain 27 safety recommendations. During the inquest, it has become clear that they will include the fitting of a warning light above the vibration indicators to indicate which engine is causing trouble; the installation of closed-circuit television to enable pilots to see the outside of the aircraft; and a dedicated radio frequency during an emergency to enable crews to talk to controllers without being interrupted by other aircraft in the vicinity. Discussions are being held about the wording of the draft report.

The coroner will sum up the evidence of 41 witnesses on Monday and the jury is expected to return its verdict later that day or on Tuesday.



Joanna Nash, aged seven, playing a vibraslap at the Queen Elizabeth Hall during the London heats of the National Choral competition yesterday. The choir, from Deansfield Infant and Nursery School, Eltham, south-east London, were the youngest entrants

Anaesthetic 'killed boy' at dentist

Rare watch found in stock sale

Schools may close unless more girls' places provided

A BOY aged nine died after being injected with an overdose of anaesthetic while in a dentist's chair, it was alleged yesterday. Mr Nini Kotecha, the dentist, and Mr George Brown, his anaesthetist, face allegations of serious professional misconduct before the Professional Conduct Committee of the General Dental Council.

Mr Timothy Preston said Mr Brown, of Leamington Spa, administered more than double the anaesthetic's recommended dose. He said Mr Brown and Mr Kotecha, of Barnet, north London, failed to monitor Darren Bamford's condition adequately and to ensure resuscitation equipment was available. Mr Preston said Darren was taken to Mr Kotecha's surgery in Chesham, Hertfordshire, on June 16 last year.

Mr Brown administered 50mg of a barbiturate drug with another 20mg shortly afterwards for the operation, which was supposed to last 10 minutes. He administered further doses up to a total of 165mg over 20 minutes before the operation was stopped.

Mrs Moira Barry, a senior nurse, pointed out that Darren's lower lip had turned mauve and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage was attempted. Darren was put on a ventilator but 10 days later the ventilator was turned off. A pathologist gave the cause of death as cerebral anoxia - lack of oxygen to the brain. The hearing continues.

A SHARP trainee discovered a gold watch with an unusual movement, worth between £12,000 and £18,000, among stock from a jeweller's shop that is being shown for the first time at Sotheby's in Chester today.

Mr Richard Chadwick, aged 23, of Cleveleys, Lancashire, was cataloguing hundreds of pocket watches in the sale of stock from John Dyson and Sons, a famous jeweller in Leeds that closed in February. The routine task caused excitement when he found an 18 carat gold-cased watch with a rare six-minute revolving escapement signed John Dyson and inscribed "watchmaker to the Admiralty". The example was made in 1911.

Mr Chadwick, an antique watch enthusiast, said: "I'd spent several days cataloguing them and they all seemed virtually identical, but this had a movement with an unusual feature I'd only read about and never seen. The specialist in London told me he'd only ever seen one other like it."

The watch was made on the premises and had never left the shop. Dyson's, founded in 1856, became the pre-eminent jewellers, silversmiths and watchmakers in the city. Viewing of the 2,000 lots takes place today prior to a three-day auction beginning on Tuesday. The sale is expected to make more than £500,000.

SIX single-sex grammar schools in Birmingham have been told by the city council that they could face closure because they provide more places for boys than girls.

The Labour authority said that closure was a "radical" option to comply with a High Court judgement which found the council guilty of sex discrimination by providing fewer places for girls than boys in the city's grammar schools.

The council was taken to court almost three years ago by the Equal Opportunities Commission and the High Court ruling was confirmed by the Appeal Court and the House of Lords. Although the council maintains the six schools, four of which are for boys, it has argued that it has no legal power to force their governors to correct the imbalance in provision of places.

The schools say that the council is politically opposed to selective education, but the council said it had been thwarted in its attempts to come within the law because the governors of one of the six schools, Handsworth Grammar School for Boys, had refused to accept girl pupils.

When the council proposed last year that it would close the school by ceasing to maintain it, parents voted to opt out and receive funding directly from the Department of Education and Science. Five of the six schools are part of the King Edward Foundation. Dr Steven Grainger, its secretary,

said yesterday that the schools believed the closure option was a serious threat.

Dr Grainger said other options put forward were the closure of one or more of the boys' grammar schools, the establishment of a girls' grammar school or turning a non-selective school into a girls' grammar school. He said the options were included in a consultation document for governors and parents which had been sent out by the council's education department.

He said it contained misleading information and gave parents no time to consider the issues. He wanted it referred to the local government ombudsman on grounds of maladministration.

Dr Grainger said: "The parties should sit down and work out a sensible and proper solution. We do have more places for boys than girls, but we would be happy to talk about increasing the size of one of the girls' schools. We are prepared to discuss having one of the boys' schools as

mixed, if the governors were happy and there was parental support."

Mr Michael Hiscox, the city's acting assistant chief education officer, said yesterday that 189 more boys' places were provided in the six schools than for girls.

He said: "We cannot make them mixed schools. That is a matter for the governors. The options open to the council are very limited and that is why some of the options may seem a bit drastic. It reflects the lack of opportunity to make adjustments in the provision of places."

Mr Hiscox emphasized that closure would require the approval of the Secretary of State for Education and Science and was only one of the options that had been put forward. He said that the council had to act quickly to resolve the problem because the Equal Opportunities Commission had threatened to take the council back to court unless it corrected the imbalance.

Suicide rate for men up by 50% in 10 years

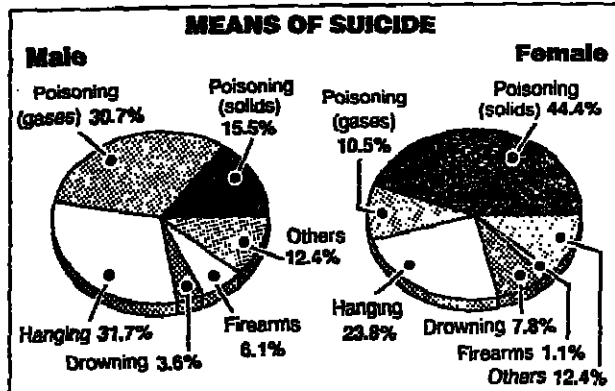
By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

THE number of men who commit suicide before they reach middle age increased by 50 per cent over the past 10 years, with farmers and doctors most likely to take their own lives, according to a report published by The Samaritans yesterday.

The suicide rate among men aged between 15 and 44 has risen in England and Wales from 10 to 15 per 100,000, while female rates have gradually declined to about half that number.

In Scotland, however, the rate for both men and women almost doubled in the same period and were now 23 and 9 per 100,000 respectively. More than 4,750 people commit suicide every year in Great Britain, one every two hours, according to the report.

Part of the reason for the rise in male deaths was thought to be the social pressures of striving for success and trying to emulate a certain "lifestyle" in spite of increasing financial constraints for many and fluctuating unemployment, the report said.



However, relationship and family problems, bereavement, depression or loss of self-esteem - although aggravated by social pressures - were often behind suicide attempts.

Farmers worked long, tiring hours that could lead to social and physical isolation. "Broken marriages, frequent financial difficulties and a high incidence of farming accidents are all too common," the report said.

Doctors also worked long hours but in addition they were constantly exposed to human suffering and pain and had to take responsibility for patient welfare.

The survey also showed that men and women tended to use

different methods to commit suicide. Men generally used more violent methods such as hanging or poisoning by gas - usually vehicle exhaust fumes - while women opted for poisoning such as taking an overdose.

Rates in both sexes were rising faster among certain age groups, such as adolescents and pensioners. The suicide rate among young people had more than doubled in the past 30 years and ranked third as a cause of death after accidents and cancer.

A study of mainly female adolescents who had attempted suicide by poisoning showed that 76 per cent had parental problems, 58 per cent

were worried about school or work and 52 per cent had relationship problems. More than one third of all calls received by The Samaritans were from young people, and it was not unusual for calls to come from children under the age of 10, the report said.

"Parasuicide" - non fatal deliberate self-harm - was particularly common among adolescents.

"It is a powerful statement of distress and is often more of an impulsive act undertaken in order to release tension and stress and give voice to feelings of anger, frustration and loss of self-esteem," the report said.

An estimated 100,000 cases of parasuicide involving poisoning occurred every year and the figure for all cases could be as high as 200,000.

The highest rate for suicide, however, was among elderly people. Many experienced the same problems as everyone else but in addition they may suffer ill health, lowering income, growing isolation and loneliness.

The report also showed seasonal variations in suicide rates with most taking place during the late spring and

early summer. Emotionally charged festivals such as St Valentine's Day and Christmas could also trigger suicides or self-inflicted injury.

Launching Samaritan Week, from May 21 to May 25, Mr Simon Armonson, chief executive, said Samaritans aimed to reach people before they got to the point where suicide was the only option.

"Someone commits suicide every two hours - this is a tragic loss of life," he said. "We know we must make every effort to reach out to those people in greatest need, and not just wait for them to call us."

The organization had set up an Outreach programme working in conjunction with other agencies so it could work more effectively with patients in hospitals and prisoners, who had less access to a private telephone. Mr Armonson said the organization had 22,000 volunteers responding to 2.5 million contacts every year, but was always in need of further recruits.

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Kinnock sets out 'less painful' cure for inflation

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A LESS painful cure for high inflation was put forward yesterday by Mr Neil Kinnock as he set the stage for the launch, next Thursday, of Labour's blueprint for its general election manifesto.

The Government's reliance on "punitive" borrowing rates would be replaced by a combination of credit controls, financial discipline and interest rates, plus full membership of the European Monetary System, to curb rising prices.

The Labour leader did not elaborate on the financial disciplines that he would impose, but the blueprint is known to contain a firm commitment not to spend more than the country can afford. The 20,000-word policy document has been drawn up to answer Tory charges that the Opposition is long on rhetoric but short on policies.

Yesterday, at the Welsh Labour Party conference, in Swansea, Mr Kinnock set out to show that he has a credible and electorally appealing answer to Britain's most pressing economic difficulty and to underline his determination to take no risks with inflation. He also seized on the latest unemployment figures to accuse the Tories of forcing up jobless totals to "strangle growth" and slow price rises.

However, with Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, preparing for a summer offensive against Labour's revised programme, particularly on its economic

and trade union policies, Mr Kinnock knows that his prescriptions will be closely scrutinized.

The policy document is understood to contain at least 50 spending commitments, but they have been made sufficiently vague by Mrs Margaret Beckett, the shadow chief secretary to the treasury, to make it difficult for Mr Baker to assess their cost.

Yesterday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, fired the opening shots in the Tory counter-attack by accusing the Opposition of wilfully trying to mislead the public by removing "all the incriminating evidence from the scene of the crime".

Mr Kinnock coupled his remarks with a fierce attack on the Government's record, saying that the Tory slogan "Conservatives Cost You Less" was the big lie of 1990. Tackling inflation was central to Labour's programme, he said.

"Inflation must be brought down and kept down — and it must be done, and can be done, without the damage now being inflicted on families and industries by the highest interest rates in the major industrialized countries," Mr Kinnock said.

"First, inflation must be brought down and kept down by a combination of controls on credit, financial disciplines and — yes — interest rates, too, but never by themselves and, in consequence, not at the punitive levels used by the Tories."

Secondly, entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System would be negotiated on the basis of "prudent conditions" to give Britain a "monetary sheet anchor".

These measures would be underpinned by long-term changes such as investment in training, research and development and transport.

Mr Kinnock accused the Conservatives of fuelling inflation with high mortgage interest rates, rent rises and a poll tax that made 80 per cent of people pay more to get nothing extra for it. The Government was also forcing up unemployment to "strangle growth" and restrict price rises.

Recalling Mrs Thatcher's remarks to Scottish Tories last Saturday that a like-for-like comparison with most European countries would shave nearly three points off the retail price index, Mr Kinnock said that the Government was planning to "fix" the numbers.

He said: "They are going to try to take mortgage rates and poll tax out of the inflation figures. They are going to try to do to the inflation figures what they did to the unemployment figures — not deal with the problem, just fix the numbers."

Judges say Gecas case must go on

THREE judges at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday refused to delay an action for damages by Mr Antony Gecas, aged 74, over allegations about his wartime activities.

Mr Gecas, of Moston Terrace, Edinburgh, is suing Times Newspapers. Mr Brian Gill, QC, for *The Times*, asked the court to allow his clients to go to Lithuania to take the evidence of five witnesses. The court said it was not even known if the witnesses were alive. This would have led to the postponement of the court hearing set down for June 5. Lord Dunpark, sitting with Lords McCluskey and McDonald, refused the motion for the discharge of the date for the court hearing.

"It seems to us that if we were to grant the commission there would be infinite delay with prejudice to Mr Gecas, who is 74 and who is in poor health," he said. The judge said that his claim for damages, in what has been a long and expensive case, would die with him.

Security-risk leak fuels dispute on MPs' reports

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter



A car-bomb check during a security crackdown at Westminster yesterday after this week's London bomb attacks

THE Commons privileges select committee backed down yesterday from taking action against newspaper journalists for leaking MPs' reports as the BBC infringed Commons rules by prematurely publishing the defence committee's report condemning lack of security at military bases.

With leaks becoming endemic at Westminster, the BBC disclosed that the defence committee's report on security at defence bases, to be published next week, will condemn the standards of many private security firms used to guard 44 sites and call for much stricter vetting. *The Times* leaked the same report more than two weeks ago.

The BBC's release is the latest chapter in the controversy at Westminster over leaked committee reports.

After investigating two previous leaks, the privileges committee yesterday urged that there be no relaxation in the rules on select committee reports. However, one chairman disclosed that he had no fundamental objection against journalists leaking reports already agreed by committees but not yet published.

The privileges committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that premature leaks of two inquiries by the education select committee caused "substantial interference" to its work. However, it failed to trace the leakers and made no recommendation to the Commons for further action to be taken against *Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph* journalists concerned.

The report said: "We retain the right to recommend a severe judgement against any Member or other person who, by breach of trust or otherwise, chooses to inflict serious damage on a select committee by making possible the premature publication of its proceedings."

It added: "We do not favour any change in the rules so as to diminish the protection given to select committees against the premature disclosure of their proceedings."

"We regard as established beyond rebuttal the contention that the work of the education committee suffered damage as a result of the premature disclosures."

Commenting on the leak of the defence committee report, Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the Commons environment committee, said yesterday: "If the committee have agreed the report already, then it is a

matter which is going to be public in that form in any event."

He added: "Where I think the committee of privileges does have to look into the matter is where a chairman's draft report has not yet been considered by the committee and the committee then considers it, not impartially and calmly, based on the evidence, but under pressure from media commentators suggesting what they ought to say."

Premature leaks cast suspicion on "a whole legion of innocent people", including officials.

However, Mr Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, said: "With the televising of Parliament and the growing public interest in the work of select committees, it is absurd that members should be advised to retain restrictions on reporting, based on a resolution passed 150 years ago."

Mr Benn disclosed that he had tried to amend the present rule so that all select committees should hear all evidence and deliberate in public, unless a motion to meet in private were agreed. During a private session of the privileges committee, the amendment was defeated by eight votes to one.

Leading article, page 11

Collision course set over NHS pay

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT was last night on course for another confrontation in the National Health Service after the decision of union leaders representing more than 250,000 workers to ballot on strike action over pay. Five unions have now rejected offers of up to 7.8 per cent as "totally inadequate" and are laying plans for industrial action, ranging from three-day stoppages to all-out indefinite strikes by groups of key workers.

Yesterday, more than 200 delegates from the National Association of Local Government Officers, representing 140,000 clerical and administrative workers, rejected by three-to-one a 7.7 pay offer, which is 1.7 per cent below the present rate of inflation. They are demanding rises of £18 a week.

Another 140,000 NHS hospital support workers, who belong to the Confederation of Health Service Employees, are also balloting for industrial action after a 7.8 per cent offer. They are demanding rises of £17.33.

Unlike other unions representing the support grades, who are balloting without a recommendation, the union is urging its members to embark on a campaign of industrial action.

Ulster poll winner a bright light in lacklustre party

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

MR DAVID Trimble, the new MP for Upper Bann, is regarded as a bright light in the generally lacklustre Ulster Unionist Party and who might one day become its leader.

Mr Trimble, who, at 45, is young for a UUP MP, will not take long to make his mark in the Commons and is expected to stand out among his colleagues as a vigorous, articulate, if not at times pedantic and angry, exponent of unionist anxieties.

Until now a committed devolutionist, he is a passionate opponent of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, while also a determined campaigner for improving and making more accountable the Orders in Council system. In many respects the Queen's University law lecturer, who speaks for the party on legal issues and lives at Lisburn, Co Antrim, is unusual in modern-day unionist politics.

His intellectual approach is regarded with suspicion by many in his party and his uneasy blend of middle-class respectability and barely concealed rough edges of the "street fighter" mentality, do not sit easily with the stiffer elements of Ulster unionism.

His critics claim that there is more prejudice than reason in his political outlook and point to his proud involvement in the Ulster Clubs movement, in the workers' strike which brought down the power-sharing executive and in his appetite for indulging in the kind of hysterical anti-

Roman Catholic rhetoric more often associated with Mr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party than with Mr James Molyneux's UUP.

A recent example of this was Mr Trimble's decision to join Mr Paisley and others on the roof of Mr Molyneux's headquarters in Belfast — much to the UUP leader's embarrassment — to hurl abuse at Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, when he visited the city last month.

Mr Trimble's allies recognize that at the heart of his political thinking there is an uneasy paradox where reason, moderation and a genuine desire for reconciliation, battle the instinctive prejudice and ghetto mentality of the born and bred Orangeman.

As one colleague said: "David is a gut Unionist for good or for worse — he's prejudiced for that reason even though intellectually he finds it difficult to justify. But he is also capable of a greater understanding than most unionists of the need to balance support for your tribe with practical negotiation."

Mr Trimble's route to Westminster has not been as easy as it might have been. Although long ago sacrificing his promising academic career for politics, he has missed out on a number of occasions since to move to centre stage. Although his past record and particularly his central involvement with Vanguard in the early 1970s and Mr Wil-

Oil spill engulfs marine habitat

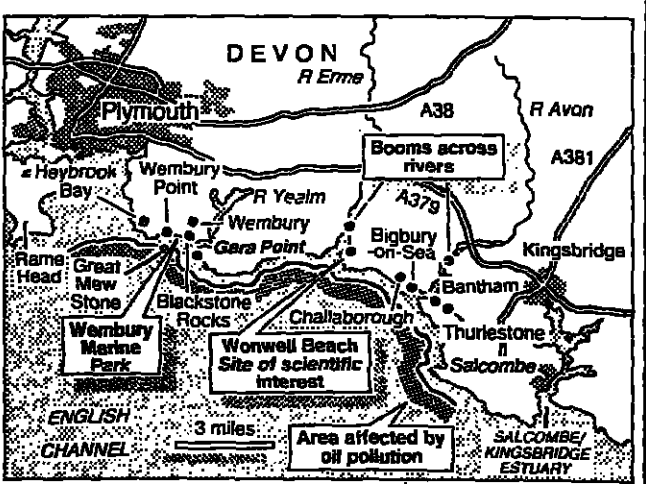
OIL polluting one of the country's most important marine habitats will remain there rather than be removed by mechanical or chemical means (Lin Jenkins writes).

The oil is likely to suffocate life in the rock pools of Wembury Marine Conservation Park on the south Devon coast, but conservationists believe any attempt to mop it up would cause greater damage to the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Devon county council's clean-up team had hoped that the slick would miss Wembury, but winds moved the

remains of the oil spilt a week ago when a trawler holed Rose Bay, a supertanker, further west towards Rame Head outside Plymouth Sound.

The marine conservation park along a four-mile stretch between Blackstone Rock and Wembury Point has a high density of life found between the high and low tide marks and is the habitat for nationally important populations of anemones, sea squirts, algae, sponges and molluscs. Mr Paul Gompertz, director of the Devon Wildlife Trust, said: "It is these which are threatened by the oil."



Rifkind denies rift over Ravenscraig closure

By Kerry Gill

MR MALCOLM Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday he had the support of the Prime Minister over his statement to the House of Commons on the Ravenscraig closure and again denied that there was disagreement between himself and the rest of the Cabinet.

Speaking at Irvine, Strathclyde, when he visited a training centre, Mr Rifkind said the Government would try to persuade British Steel to reverse its decision to close the strip mill with the loss of 770 jobs.

"British Steel have tried to close Ravenscraig before. They had second

thoughts and the strip mill turned out to be profitable. We will discuss closure with British Steel again and try to persuade them to change their mind," he said.

He also reiterated his view that an independent, Scottish steel industry might be an option, a view strongly supported by the Scottish National Party. Mr Rifkind emphasized, however, that the Government would not step in to prevent the closure scheduled for next year.

"We are not going back to the interventionism of the past when a company which wanted to do something found legislation brought in to prevent it. That was nonsense," he

said, adding again that he had no intention of resigning over the issue. "I am pleased with the Prime Minister's support. My call for British Steel to reconsider their decision is not against the Cabinet view. There was no disagreement. The company will decide on closure at the end of the day," Mr Rifkind added. "Ministers don't resign because companies want to do something for commercial interest."

Motherwell district council disclosed it had commissioned consultants to carry out a feasibility study into continuing investment in Ravenscraig and the Dalzell and Clydesdale steel works. The report

would investigate the market, technical and financial aspects of all three plants with the intention of building a water-tight case for investment.

The council said in a statement it deplored the closure decision and was deeply concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the future at Dalzell and Clydesdale. "The steel industry is a key component in Motherwell's economy. Disinvestment will have far-reaching economic, social and environmental consequences for the area," it said. More than 16,000 jobs were linked to British Steel operations, two thirds within companies supplying goods and services.

Parliament

Minister approves cash for tunnel terminal

The Government has approved investment of £98.5 million for the development of an international passenger terminal at Waterloo Station in London, Mr Roger Freeman, Minister for Public Transport, announced in the Commons yesterday.

Making the announcement during a debate on the Channel tunnel rail link, he told MPs that he had also approved investment for a maintenance depot in West London, the two projects together worth £175 million.

The Government was still considering a "complicated package" of rail link proposals from British Rail and Eurorail, and he could not commit the Secretary of State or the Government to a statement before the spring recess next week. "We will try to reach a decision as quickly as possible."

He said that he had also approved new electric freight locomotives and the electrification of the line between Tonbridge in Kent and Redhill in Surrey. In all the investment totalled £250 million.

Mr Gerald Bowden (Dulwich, C), opening the debate, criticized British Rail's proposals for a high speed link through rural Kent and South-east London and said that the proposal for a terminal at King's Cross did not meet the need for a direct route through or around London for passengers going on to other destinations.

Commuters using existing lines had already complained about the inadequacy of the service.

Involved in BR's proposals was some of the most difficult terrain for engineering and construction purposes. He had grave misgivings about the professionalism in the way that BR had considered the costing of the proposed route.

It drove through some of the most beautiful landscapes in South-east England, through farmland, small villages and communities, and through densely populated urban South-east London. All this implied environmental damage and both short-term and long-term nuisance.

The rail link be routed around

North Kent, where there was a considerable amount of derelict industrial land available cheaper than the expensive agricultural and residential land in South and Mid Kent. It could then approach Stratford via South Essex.

The proposal based on Stratford offered infinitely more to all regions. It should be seriously considered by British Rail, not rubbish as in the past with disinformation given to MPs.

Mr Neil Thorne (Ilford South, C) said that hundreds of links and through-routes were considered, including the link through Stratford. British Rail had gone to considerable trouble and had looked into the matter thoroughly. But there was a time factor and they could not go on considering things forever. If every option were considered in detail they would still be discussing the matter by 2020.

Ms Kate Hoey (Vauxhall, Lab), whose constituency includes Waterloo Station, said that one reason they did not trust British Rail was because the board had originally said that only one terminal would be needed and that it had to be at

Waterloo. It had predicted that the station would have to cater for ten and a half million people.

British Rail had since demonstrated how wrong its original estimates were by saying that there would probably be 40 million passengers using Waterloo when the tunnel opened in 1993. Waterloo would not be able to cope.

Mr Richard Llewellyn, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Wales, said that debate on the link seemed to centre entirely around London. The Principality, the West and the West Midlands were being forgotten.

Why should the line go into London at all? Why not have an orbital rail by-pass which would link up, not only the rest of Britain, but the airports of Heathrow and Gatwick, providing a truly integrated transport system?

Mr Mark Wolfson (Sevenoaks, C) the British Rail proposal had all the hallmarks of a bodged job. The strategic issues had not been addressed before decisions on the route appeared to have been taken.

Ms Harriet Harman

(Peckham, Lab) said that there should be a proper inquiry into the best route and there should be public investment in the project.

Mr Andrew Rowe (Mid Kent, C) said that as British Rail floundered away, finally turning reluctantly to their enterprise partners to tell them how to design the line, he was right to be sceptical about their expertise.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, an Opposition spokesman on transport, called for an inquiry to examine all the rail link options.

Scientists appointed

The names of three scientists to serve on the new joint committee through which the new conservation agencies to succeed the Nature Conservancy Council will work were announced in the House of Lords by Lord Hesket, Under Secretary of State for the Environment.

They are: Professor John Harper, Emeritus Professor of Botany, University of Wales;

Public money was required, although Labour was opposed to using taxpayers' money to prop up private sector projects.

It was time for a statement about what was going on.

Mr Freeman said that there was no question of the Government bailing out the tunnel itself. The Stratford terminal had been carefully evaluated. Had it been chosen, BR would still have approached it from the South, not from the East, to ensure that any benefits from the new line were shared with Waterloo.

Professor John Knill, Chairman, Natural Environment Research Council and a member of the NCC; and Professor Robert May, Royal Society Research Professor of Zoology and Professor of Zoology at Oxford University and Imperial College.

The announcement was made during a debate on the Environmental Protection Bill which was given a second reading.

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Green belt land is sought for £200m soccer club scheme

By Kerry Gill

PROPOSALS for a £200 million commercial, leisure and residential development on green belt land west of Edinburgh, which could generate up to 5,000 jobs, were announced yesterday by a venture company established between Murray International Holdings and the Bank of Scotland.

A planning application involving a 25,000-seat stadium for Hearts Football Club, an electronics company employing 500, and 1,000 houses, is expected to be submitted in the next two weeks. Mr David Murray, chairman of Murray International, said he was confident that permission would be granted in spite of the proposed development being within the green belt, because space in Edinburgh had all but run out.

The scheme, which could be completed by 1998, envisages up to 5,000 new jobs in manufacturing enterprises, a hotel and conference centre, a country and campus park and two villages of mixed tenure housing. Mr Murray, whose delivery of a brief of the project yesterday to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the development would have good access to the M8, the Edinburgh by-pass and Heriot-Watt University.

He said that a leading electronics company was prepared to move on to the site once planning permission was given and had committed itself to provide 500 jobs. If permission was refused, he said, the local authorities "might as well put a sign up on the motorway saying no progress wanted, no jobs wanted".

The application is bound to be called in by Lothian regional council and to be referred to Mr Rifkind for final approval. The venture company, known as Murray BS, will sell the land needed for the stadium, for the hotel and conference centre, and for part of the site for housing and manufacturing development. However, Murray BS will be responsible for up to 50 per cent of the development work on the site, known as Hermiston Park.

The company said that at least two thirds of the 375-acre site would be open space. The Union Canal, which runs through it, would be widened to allow water sports and the local Gogar Burn extended to create a small loch. Hearts' present Tynecastle stadium, in Edinburgh, will become an inner city development area. Mr Wallace Mercer, club chairman, yesterday welcomed the move that will allow him to build an all-seater stadium.

Mr Gavin Masterton, general manager of the Bank of Scotland, said that the proposed development would "add a meaningful new dimension to the future prosperity of the city and positions it well for the 1990s and beyond". However, Mr Mark Lazarowicz, the leader of Edinburgh district council's Labour administration, said that the scheme had little to do with football and more to do with making money. "I think that we have here a plan which is a massive invasion of a crucial part of the green belt. I think we do need a new stadium for Hearts and, indeed, for Hibernian as well. But I think this plan is unlikely to be acceptable because it is primarily a piece of speculative property development rather than a serious proposal directly aimed at a football stadium."



Mr Barry Flanagan, second from left, supervising the arrival, protected by polythene, of his latest piece, "2nd Leaping Hare", at the east London foundry where it will be cast in bronze. The work is one of nine hare sculptures that will feature in his

exhibition at the Waddington Gallery, London, from next Wednesday to June 16 (Lin Jenkins writes). Mr Flanagan, who studied in the 1960s at St Martin's College of Art and Design, in London, has returned to the hare theme after having done

sculptures of elephants, unicorns and horses. Miss Jenny Mercer, for the gallery, said: "His fascination with the hare comes from its dual role as a popular cartoon animal and mythical symbol." The sculptures sell for between £25,000 and £120,000.

Man who revived Rangers races on to fresh success

By Kerry Gill

MR DAVID Murray, chairman of Murray International Holdings, made one of his periodic visits to Glasgow this week, dashing down the M8 from his Edinburgh headquarters in his blue Bentley, to disclose that one of his latest acquisitions, Rangers Football Club, was about to announce its first profit in 10 years.

From a hefty overdraft of more than £11 million in March, Rangers is expected to tell the Scottish business community at the end of this month that it has achieved a profit level of about £1 million in spite of substantial borrowing to pay for new players and extensive social facilities at its Ibrox ground.

Murray International Holdings, involved mainly in property and steel stockholding, is believed to be about to disclose a similar success: a cut in its borrowings from £55 million to under £10 million.

Mr Murray, aged 38, who has walked with the aid of crutches since a crash in his Lotus Elite returning from a rugby match, is seen as one of Scotland's most successful businessmen of the past decade. He was Young Scottish Businessman of the Year in 1984. His company is the biggest private concern owned by one person north of the

border. For the man who started his career as a 17-year-old metal business trainee, the 1990s could see him becoming one of the biggest steel stockholders in the United Kingdom after the British Steel Corporation and, it is thought, a press baron before too long.

The former Fettes public schoolboy - he was removed after a short time to a grammar school when his father's business hit a trough - has ambitions within the media. His interests are meanwhile being concentrated in property and steel. "We have money to spend and I intend to make acquisitions soon. My aim is to have no borrowings at all by the end of this year," he said yesterday.

Now personally worth more than £55 million, Mr Murray made his first £100,000 on a £2 million annual turnover when he was 24. He is at present involved in a venture with the Teesside Development Corporation on a tract of land visited by Mrs Thatcher in 1987.

This involves a proposed mix of 700 houses, 800,000 sq ft of office space and 200,000 sq ft of retail property. He recently developed and sold 250,000 sq ft of offices to Prudential for £29 million at South Gyle, Edinburgh, where his headquarters are situated.

One of his greatest coups, however, was the purchase of Rangers for a mere £6 million 18 months ago. Mainly due to a frenetic period developing the club's catering and commercial activities, Rangers' financial performance has proved one of the greatest successes in Scottish business in recent years.

Mr Murray puts this down largely to his management team, picked for their expertise in fields such as catering, commerce, football administration and public relations rather than blind faith in the future of the "Gers".



Mr David Murray: "We have money to spend"

Lazy worker leaves mark on history

By Nick Nuttall Technology Correspondent

A LAZY fifteenth century carpenter and a computer system that compares tree rings and records of Middle England oaks spanning more than 1,000 years have allowed scientists to date the construction of Anne Hathaway's cottage to within a year, it was disclosed yesterday.

Dendrochronologists - tree ring experts - at Nottingham University and historians at the University of Warwick are convinced that the home of William Shakespeare's future wife was built in late 1492 or early 1493. The discovery is part of a two-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust, aimed at establishing the age of medieval buildings and the life-styles of people of the time.

Timber samples from 60 cruck buildings, which are timber-framed homes from before or during the medieval period, have been sampled. Full findings are scheduled to be published next year. At the heart of the research are records of oak tree rings for the East Midlands, taken from

local buildings dating back to 882. Tree rings are fatter or thinner depending on prevailing weather conditions over growing years.

The researchers have compared ring patterns in newly-felled oaks with those in progressively older timber samples from buildings in the area and a computer system has been used to statistically match, with a high level of accuracy, the "master" patterns with those from Anne Hathaway's cottage.

As medieval carpenters used "green", or young, timber, the scientists can confidently match the age of the oak and the building. However, it is thanks to a lazy carpenter that researchers were able to pinpoint the date of Anne Hathaway's home. Most medieval builders removed the bark and some layers of outer, light, wood to make the timber more resistant to pests, but this worker neglected to do so and the presence of bark on the sample gives evidence of the last years of the growth of the trees used.

Help with paying the Community Charge

PUT IN A CLAIM FOR COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFIT BEFORE 27 MAY AND YOU COULD GET IT BACKDATED TO 1 APRIL

By now, you should have your Community Charge bill.

You may be able to get some help with paying your bill - a rebate of up to 80 pence in every pound.

Obviously, this will depend on your personal circumstances, your income, your savings and how much the Community Charge is in your area.

But don't be put off claiming. You don't have to be getting any other social security benefits to get Community Charge Benefit.

You don't have to be paying rent. People who own their own home, or who live in someone else's home, can still get this benefit.

And it makes no difference whether or not you are working.

For example, many families with children who take home £150 a week or even more will be able to get benefit. And many pensioner couples will get benefit with an income of £130 a week or even more.

So don't miss out. If you think you might possibly be entitled to benefit, and you haven't already applied, do it now. Not everyone will qualify but you can't lose by claiming.

Ask your local council for a claim form now. Or, if you're unable to call in to their offices personally, you can always ask a friend to do so on your behalf. Alternatively, phone or write to your local council offices for a claim form at once.

You've nothing to lose by claiming and you may well gain.



**Remember -
return your claim form
by 27 May**

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

This announcement does not apply to Scotland: this backdating provision applied in Scotland after 1 April 1989.

Chancellor heralds law on job bias for lawyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT proposals to outlaw racial and sexual discrimination in the legal profession are likely to bring about far-reaching changes, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday.

The proposals, on which the Government has tabled amendments to the courts and legal services Bill now going through the Commons, would provide "greater equality of opportunity both for new entrants and for established practitioners". Under the amendments, the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Race Relations Act 1976 would be extended to barristers' chambers and those instructing them.

Lord Mackay told the Inns of Court Students' Association at Birmingham University that in relation to chambers, the amendments would "make it unlawful for a barrister or barrister's clerk to discriminate against a person on grounds of sex or race in respect of the offer of a pupillage or of a tenancy in chambers".

"This is a very important provision," he said, "and one which enjoys the support both of the Bar Council and its race relations committee."

Lord Mackay said the change would complement the new "twinning" scheme by which links are to be formed between sets of chambers where barristers from ethnic minorities are concentrated and the mainstream civil and commercial sets.

The amendments would also make it unlawful for anyone, in relation to the giving, withholding or acceptance of instructions to counsel, to discriminate on grounds of sex or race. Lord Mackay said: "It will require both solicitors and the other professionals and organizations who instruct barristers to exercise their professional judgement to choose counsel on the basis solely of merit."

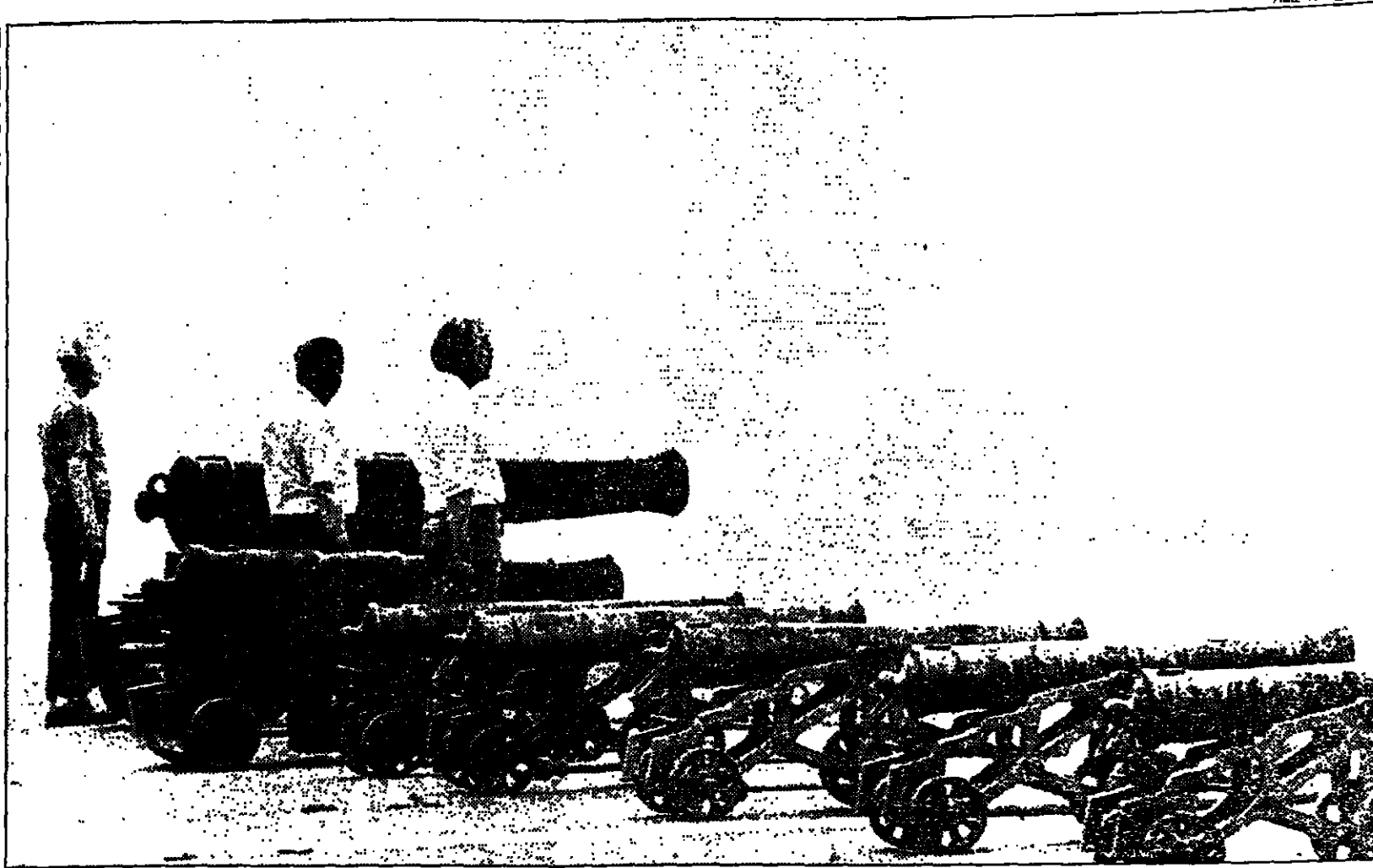
The strength and professionalism of the Bar lay in the qualities of "detachment and judgement" which its members brought to their cases as independent consultants, he said.

At present, the provisions of the race relations Act and sex discrimination Act do not cover barristers in private practice. That is because they do not practise in partnership or have contractual relationships with the other members of their chambers or clients.

While the amendments were welcomed by the Bar, however, the Law Society expressed regret that they did not permit solicitors to exercise the exceptions contained in the race and sex discrimination laws. Under the exceptions, choice can be exercised in favour of a certain racial group or a particular group in certain defined circumstances.

"For instance," the Law Society said, "a black actor can be sought to play Othello, or a female nanny can be recruited to help a mother." The Law Society said it wanted to see a similar arrangement so clients could instruct barristers of a particular racial group or sex where the circumstances were such that the barrister's services could most effectively be provided by a barrister of that racial group or sex.

Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, the chairman of the Bar, said: "I am delighted that the Government has taken this opportunity to correct these omissions in the law."



Employees at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, Kent, firing a nine-pounder at a rehearsal for a 10-gun salute to mark the christening of the Olau Britannia, a new ferry from The Netherlands. Two of the guns were recovered from the Medway and restored at the dockyard

Clan chief loses a noble clause

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

MPS HAVE foiled an attempt by Scottish hereditary peers to protect the purity of their bloodlines in the new era of test-tube fertilization techniques.

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy, chief of the Fraser clan, campaigned and won the support of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, for a provision in the Warnock legislation to prevent children borne from embryo or sperm donation from inheriting titles, coats of arms, hereditary posts or any other fringe benefits from the centuries-old peerage system.

She argued that if infertile peers produced offspring with the help of the new procedures they will not be the "true" heirs. While she did not reject a commoner being certified as the legal father when he was not the natural father, she issued a warning that it threatened to contaminate the progeny of the nobility.

On her side were ranged various bodies concerned with preserving the purity of hereditary bloodlines. However, this week, Mrs Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow Maryhill, defeated the Government by removing the provision from the Human

Fertilization and Embryology Bill during the closing session of the Commons committee stage scrutiny.

Among those who gave Mrs Fyfe victory by 10 votes to six were the Conservative MPs Dame Jill Knight and Mrs Edwina Currie. The defeated included Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Solicitor General, and the Conservative MP Mrs Ann Widdicombe.

Mrs Fyfe argued that Lady Saltoun's idea was "a lot of nonsense" and pointed out that there was never any check in any case to ensure that a hereditary peer was the real father of his offspring. If such controls did apply, many peers might be in danger of losing their titles.

"In 1990 we are being asked to declare who can or cannot inherit clan chieftainships and titles that should have been abolished long ago," she said. "The Roman emperors often adopted heirs because they were infertile. If that was good enough to run the Roman empire, might it not be good enough to rule the clans, which matter to no one nowadays, least of all to the ordinary people of Scotland?"

Scheme for new services gives a lift to Prestwick

By Kerry Gill

THE viability of Prestwick Airport, which lost its transatlantic gateway status two months ago, was improved yesterday with the announcement of a range of new air services.

Emerald Air proposes later this year to link Prestwick directly with a number of European cities, including London, Brussels and Amsterdam. It was disclosed by Mr George Younger, Conservative MP for Ayr, whose constituency includes Prestwick and who is deputy chairman of the Royal Bank of

Scotland. The airline, to be based in Belfast, hopes that by establishing a hub operation at Prestwick it can provide further business for the Ayrshire airport by attracting new transatlantic services.

The announcement is the first good news for the airport since the Government's disclosure that its monopoly on Scottish transatlantic flights was to be abandoned in favour of an open-skies policy.

Prestwick has since been sidelined as a range of operators, including Northwest Airlines and American Airlines, have started flights from

Glasgow Airport. Emerald Air proposes twice-daily flights between Prestwick and London City airport. The same aircraft will provide a daily service between Prestwick and Reykjavik, Iceland.

Other services will include a twice-daily flight to Brussels via Belfast and a daily service, again through Belfast, to Amsterdam. Three-weekly flights linking Prestwick with Edinburgh and Stavanger, Norway, are also proposed. The possibility of a route linking the airport with Carlisle and the Isle of Man on three days a week is being considered.

Details of the new airline, expected to be launched in November, were announced by Mr Younger at Prestwick.

He said: "I believe this airline will make a contribution to the future of the airport. I have found much interest in the facilities here, particularly at congested times. Those interested in the future of Prestwick can now look much wider than purely transatlantic traffic."

Mr Younger said he was confident that road and rail improvements proposed by the Government to improve links between the airport and the central belt of Scotland would go ahead.

He said: "There are quite a number of serious options around for Prestwick, although, at present, I can say no more than that."

Mr Bill Best, Emerald's managing director, said: "Prestwick and Belfast will be the hub airports, and our flight will be the spokes feeding in. That is the service which has been missing from Prestwick. I cannot understand why it has been blacklisted."

Sheffield to get £100m airport

A NEW airport costing £100 million is to be developed on a former industrial site in Sheffield, providing 3,500 jobs and linking South Yorkshire with Europe, it was announced yesterday.

The development, just three miles from the centre of the city, is scheduled to open in the summer of 1993. Aircraft with a capacity up to 107 seats will be able to use the airport, which is likely to serve western European destinations such as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Sheffield is the largest city in Europe not to have its own airport. The proposal comes after an agreement between the independent Government-funded Sheffield Development Corporation and the Budge Mining Company, Airports UK Ltd, a subsidiary of

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has been appointed to operate the airport, which will be built on 175 acres of land straddling a former industrial site in Sheffield's Lower Don Valley, where British Coal is carrying out open cast mining. Construction of the 1,200-metre runway will begin in early 1992.

An industrial and commercial complex is also planned for the site, providing up to one million square feet of new manufacturing and office accommodation, plus terminal buildings, restaurants and shops. Mr Hugh Sykes, chairman of Sheffield Development Corporation, said: "This is what the region's business community has been waiting for. An ultra-modern airport on its doorstep."

Prince supports opera fund

By Craig Seton

THE Prince of Wales has given his support to a £50 million fund-raising project to build an opera house in the grounds of Compton Verney, a listed classical country house in Warwickshire.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to attend a concert and dinner at Compton Verney today in aid of the project, which would give the region its first important opera house.

Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, project administrator, said the Prince had shown great interest in the scheme and in the architectural plans for the opera house, which will be designed by Henning Larsen, from Denmark, who was chosen after an international competition.

Arts plan 'will cost more'

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

FAR from saving money and cutting bureaucracy, the plan of Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, to devolve funding from the Arts Council to new regional arts boards will need more money and increase administration, according to Mr Simon Mundy, director of the National Campaign for the Arts.

The exercise was in danger of becoming no more than a "bureaucratic distraction", he said yesterday.

Mr Charles Henderson, Head of the Office of Arts and Libraries and chairman of the steering committee for the new structure, this week told the public accounts committee that the scheme would save "not more than £2 million" on current expenditure, but neither savings nor costs had been calculated.

The 12 regional arts associations are to become 10 regional boards, with most of the Arts Council's funding responsibility devolved to them.

Recommendations made in the Wilding report last autumn, which had been calculated to save £2 million, were not accepted in the minister's scheme.

"Far from saving money, the proposed changes will cost a small fortune," Mr Mundy said. "The Arts Council is being instructed by the minister to transfer responsibilities from one organization to 10. That has never saved money in the history of government."

He said regional board officers would have to have posts and salaries upgraded "and there will effectively be 10 mini-arts councils".

Mr Henderson's evidence had been given as the public accounts committee considered the National Audit Office report on the Office of Arts and Libraries (OAL) and the Arts Council. The report remarked on wasteful overlapping of work between the OAL, the Arts Council and the regional associations.



Mr Mundy: "Changes will cost a small fortune"

Food poisoning 'killed off' dinosaurs

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

FOOD poisoning caused the death of the dinosaurs, according to evidence forming the basis of the latest theory for the extinction of the largest creatures roaming the earth 65 million years ago. The poison was ingested through plants contaminated by nickel in the most devastating bout of pollution suffered by the planet.

The conclusion adds a new twist to one of the scores of ideas about how the fate of the creatures was sealed when a giant meteorite hit the planet.

Dr Thomas Wdowiak and colleagues at the University of Alabama, in the United States, have conducted experiments that, he says, show how nickel got into the food chain and contaminated plants to provide the fatal ingredient. The nickel is believed to have spread across the globe in an aerosol cloud generated when a meteorite hit the earth and vaporized. British experts are sceptical about the idea, reported in the latest issue of *New Scientist*. Mr Cyril Walker, of the Natural History Museum, London, says that the theory seems reasonable until one tries to reconcile the survival of crocodiles and other reptiles with the extinction of hundreds of other species. Theories involving the impact by meteorite are among the most popular suggestions for the mass extinctions.

Yet those various hypotheses still depend on a two-stage effect of some sort to cause the lethal conditions, involving, in a first, a giant crater from which clouds of particles were thrown into the atmosphere to create, secondly, a veil of dust that screened the sunlight for years and brought devastating climatic change that was lethal for both flora and fauna.

Dr Wdowiak argues that nickel poisoning offers a more satisfactory explanation. His answer came unexpectedly from experiments in hydroponics, in which plants are grown in a solution of nutrient. The trials included a solution of

minerals containing extracts of meteorite fragments. Meteorite debris was tested because other work indicated that plants grow faster in lunar "soil", considered comparable to meteoritic material.

In practice, the leaves of plants grown in nutrient of meteorite origin turned brownish yellow, because they lacked chlorophyll. Analysis showed the cause to be nickel contamination. Although meteorites are known to be rich in nickel, Dr Wdowiak says that it was not appreciated that the nickel was in a water-soluble form that would enter the food chain, exceeding the concentration of 40 parts per million regarded as the maximum safe level.

He calculates that a meteorite with a diameter of about six miles, believed to have struck the earth 65 million years ago, could have raised average levels of nickel in soil from 15 parts per million to between 130 and 1,300 parts per million.

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Chinese dissidents wait in wings to further fight for freedom

IN A HILLSIDE cemetery to the west of Peking, a little cluster of graves each bears a photograph of a young man who died on June 4 last year. China's leaders would be only too pleased if this were all that was left of the protest movement that nearly toppled them last year. But it is not.

A year ago, Tiananmen Square was filled each day with hundreds of thousands of demonstrators calling for a more democratic China, and the nation's media were, for the first time, responding like the media in the West. Now the casual observer is hard-pushed to find any indication of dissent.

In fact, opposition is alive and well, but biding its time. "It's like a boxing match," a Peking resident said. "We lost the first round, and now we're taking a breather before fighting the second round."

The brutality with which unarmed protesters were suppressed last June has not cowed the people of Peking, but has imbued them with a sense of self-preservation. "Demonstrating now would just act as an irritant to the leaders; it would be like a fly biting them, and they would swat the fly," one student said. In keeping with historical precedent, dis-

A year ago today the People's Liberation Army was ordered into Peking to suppress student-led demonstrations, with martial law imposed the next day. On the anniversary Catherine Sampson finds the opposition still determined that, despite losing the battle of Tiananmen Square, it will win the war for democracy

sidents are waiting for the split in the leadership that would give them a chance.

Inside China, there is just one man who dares to condemn the leaders in public as dictators. Hou Dejian, the pop star, joined the hunger strike in Tiananmen Square and helped to negotiate the students' departure early on the morning of June 4. He took refuge in the Australian Embassy and then came out, earning his immunity from arrest by appearing on Chinese television to say that he had seen no one killed in the square.

He came to the mainland as a defector from Taiwan — the sort of man whom the authorities love to show off. So Mr Hou continues to speak out, believing that the regime would be too embarrassed to arrest him. He emphasizes that

he is a singer, not a politician, and wishes someone else would take over as sole dissident. He discourages active opposition at this point, saying: "You don't pick a fight with a big dog until you have a big stick to beat him with."

On other issues, his ideas are not persuasive. He believes that a civil war would be the best thing for China, since it would break central power and create a federation. Dissidents in exile, too, advocate the creation of a federation, but do not see civil war as the best way of going about it.

Professor Fang Lizhi — who was seen before June 4 as China's Sakharov — is still believed to be inside the US Embassy, where he and his wife took refuge last year when they were denounced as criminals. There is speculation that the US and China came near to

an agreement on his release last December, even drafting the statement Mr Fang would make, but that China drew back in fear when it saw the Romanian revolution. The United States is believed to be angry and disappointed over how little progress there has been on the case.

Other well-known dissidents, released recently from prison, are afraid that they would be re-arrested if they were to make anti-government statements in public. But it is not clear how long these people will remain intimidated. In the future, they are likely to reappear as forces for change. One of the most significant achievements of the students last year was to take their call beyond the campuses, and to involve factory and office workers, and even government officials. Greater democracy is no longer seen simply as a student cause, but as a rallying point for the whole of society.

Students have endured hours of stultifying political re-education, and intimidation in the form of poor job allocations since June 4. But some are still active in underground organizations. In March, Mr Zhai Weimin, sixth on the list of 21 "most-wanted" students, emerged briefly in Peking to claim that he and other activists had set

up a clandestine movement, the Democratic Front for the Salvation of China.

He claimed that it had held a meeting of 60 activists from around the country in Peking, and had formulated aims, including an end to the Communist Party's monopoly on power and the establishment of a multi-party system. It did not advocate the use of violence. Nothing more was heard of the front after Mr Zhai went back into hiding. But the official media also recently confirmed its existence. Four different student organizations signed protest posters which appeared this spring.

"People find it extremely difficult to run underground organizations because you can't trust anyone," said a Peking resident, "and if you're cautious, you end up with an organization that is so secret that even the members don't know each other."

Nor are underground organizations well-equipped, having no access to funds, and no links with the richer dissident movement in exile. Indeed, the Paris-based dissidents have had little perceptible effect on China's democracy movement. That might change if the Goddess of Democracy radio ship starts broadcasting messages of dissent to the

mainland. Most recently, two posters appeared on the campus of Peking University. One was couched in the language of the student protests, but actually echoed the Government in condemning US sanctions. The other gave the results of an opinion poll carried out by a group of graduate students, which said that the majority of students had not stopped supporting last year's movement, and would demonstrate again.

Only a few people may be involved in underground organizations, but many more found the experience of last year's demonstrations an immensely unifying and, in some ways, liberating experience. They discovered that they were not alone in their dissatisfaction with the regime. The massacre was an agony endured together which broke the last ties of loyalty to the Communist Party.

When Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, said recently that the issue of the June 4 massacre was now outdated, he was perhaps indulging in wishful thinking. "In meetings, everyone spouts the government line," one man said. "But when they know they're among friends everyone in every office and every house talks about how awful June 4 was."

Taipei ready to end long separation from Peking

From Charles Bremner, Hong Kong

AFTER four decades of animosity towards the communist rulers of Peking, Taiwan is expected to announce steps today to start the long march back to reunification with the People's Republic.

President Lee Teng Hui is expected to indicate for the first time the nationalist island's recognition of the authority of the Peking government, long deemed a "bandit organization" by the nationalists, and announce the dismantling of a longstanding emergency decree that restricts contacts between the two Chinas.

Mr Lee's statement, in his inauguration address, follows his surprise offer to Peking this week to hold talks on bridging the chasm created by the enmity between Mao Tse-tung and General Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Kuomintang party.

In another gesture towards the communist Government, Taipei has effectively scuttled the Goddess of Democracy, the French-chartered radio ship which aimed to broadcast dissident news to the People's Republic. Although it allowed the vessel to dock in the port of Keelung and the project was



Mr Moses Stewart, centre, the father of the murdered teenager Yusuf Hawkins, escorted from court by hatted "Nation of Islam" security men

Press-ganged Burmese used as 'minesweepers'

From James Pringle, Maeletta, Burma

THEY were singing Baptist hymns in a little wooden church on the hillside here, while in the river below there floated a grisly reminder of the vicious war being fought along Burma's waters — the corpse of a man with his wrists bound together behind his back.

Burma's ruthless military rulers have become so desperate in pursuing their war against ethnic minorities and Burmese rebel students along the frontier with Thailand that they are now press-ganging ordinary Burmese citizens to act as porters and human minesweepers in the border regions. According to Burmese who have escaped, these journeys are little better than death marches.

Those who resist, or are too weak to carry ammunition and rice, or to bear wounded Burmese soldiers on makeshift stretchers, are knocked to the ground, smashed with rifle butts, kicked, then have their arms pinned behind their backs and are tossed into rivers.

The beautiful Salween river here is polluted with the dead as the military-run State Law and Order Restoration Council

Bush veto threat on weapons Bill

From Susan Elliott, Washington

THE Bush Administration, despite efforts to achieve a global ban on chemical weapons, is threatening to veto a Senate Bill that would impose sanctions on countries and firms that break international rules on chemical weapons.

Senators voted 92-0 late on Thursday for the legislation despite knowing that President Bush will probably veto it because he prefers a law passed by the House of Representatives which gives him more flexibility. The Administration has proposed deep cuts in its own and Soviet stockpiles of chemical weapons in order to put greater pressure on smaller nations to abolish theirs.

Congress introduced the legislation after reports last year that Iraq used chemical weapons against its minority Kurdish community. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has also said he would use chemical weapons in response to a nuclear attack from Israel. Moscow and Washington

want to conclude a broad range of arms agreements at their summit this month, including cuts in their stockpiles of chemical weapons. US lawmakers said they were disturbed after reports about the Iran-Iraq war that developing countries were making increasing use of chemical weapons.

The Senate Bill would force President Bush to end American aid, credit guarantees and arms exports to countries found using biological weapons against their citizens or in violation of international law. The Bill also prohibits such nations from exporting goods to, and landing aircraft in, the United States. For reasons of national security, the President could waive the sanctions for up to one year.

Companies or individuals discovered to be helping their country procure chemical weapons would be barred by the Senate Bill from exporting to America or receiving government contracts.



Queen Noor of Jordan holding a baby at a Virginia medical college which gave her an honorary degree

Teenager convicted over US race hate killing

New York

A JURY has found a white man, aged 19, guilty of murder in the killing of a black teenager in Bensonhurst, the scene of the most serious of a recent spate of racial confrontations in the city of New York.

Joseph Fama, of Brooklyn, accused of pulling the trigger in the killing of Yusuf Hawkins, aged 16, faces a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

Hawkins and three friends were going to look at a car that was for sale when they were attacked by a gang of whites on August 23 in the predominantly white Bensonhurst section of New York.

Mrs Tonya Bailey, the jury forewoman, delivered the verdict after 10 days of deliberations. The verdict, the first conviction in the case, was greeted with shouts outside the courtroom by Hawkins' family and supporters.

Mr David Dinkins, New York's first black Mayor, said in a statement that the guilty verdict "allows us to turn our attention to the process of healing. Yusuf Hawkins died of racism... That is a crime far more common than most of us are willing to admit."

Fama was found guilty on 13 of 15 counts, including murder by depraved indifference to human life, riot, unlawful imprisonment, menacing, discrimination and criminal possession of a weapon.

The defendant was acquitted of intentional murder — the equivalent in seriousness of the depraved indifference charge.

A second jury considering charges against his co-defendant, Mr Keith Modello, aged 19, who was tried in the same courtroom as Fama, ended its deliberations on Thursday without reaching a verdict.

Prosecutors allege that Mr Modello assembled a gang of 30 or more of his friends because he feared 25 black and Hispanic friends of a girl from the district, Miss Gina Feliciano, were coming to beat him up.

When Hawkins and his friends appeared on the street, the whites apparently mistook them for outside troublemakers. Several of the best-wielding whites surrounded Hawkins and pinned him down in a doorway, prosecutors said. Fama then pulled an automatic pistol and fired four shots.

Mrs Bailey, the jury forewoman, said she did not feel the evidence supported the prosecution's claim that Fama was the shooter. "I personally had decided that he was the shooter but there was not enough evidence according to the law for me to convict him of that."

Mrs Bailey, a college professor, said the deliberations took so long because "we examined every single aspect of the law... We had differences of opinion in how we interpreted the law." (AP)

25 killed in Manila air crash

Manila — A twin-engine Philippines plane crashed and exploded into a fireball in a Manila residential suburb yesterday, killing all 21 people aboard and burning to death a family of four inside their home, officials said.

The propeller-driven Beechcraft 1900 aircraft went into a spin as it fell. The nose crashed into the main bedroom of a house leased by a Japanese businessman, engulfing it in flames and scattering debris and bodies over a wide area.

The plane, on a flight to the southern city of Surigao, crashed at 6 am after one of its engines stalled minutes after take-off from Manila, investigators said. (Reuters)

Deal over boat people in doubt

AN international agreement on the Vietnamese boat people appeared to be close to collapse as a key meeting of diplomats in Manila drew towards an inconclusive end (Andrew McEwen writes).

Vietnam's neighbours, exasperated after nearly a year of wrangling between the United States, Britain and Vietnam, have started to break out of the comprehensive plan of action, which was negotiated by 29 nations in Geneva last June. Hong Kong and six other countries warned that they "reserved the right" to stop providing temporary refuge if no solution was found.

Britain names new UN envoy

SIR David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the European Community, is to become ambassador to the United Nations in September, it was announced yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

He succeeds Sir Crispin Tickell, who is probably Britain's best-known diplomat because of his knowledge of environmental affairs. Sir Crispin is retiring at 60 and is likely to take up an academic post. Sir David, aged 54, will be succeeded in Brussels by Mr John Kerr, at present assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office.

Smuggling dispute adds to Hong Kong jitters over China

From Charles Bremner Hong Kong

TO THE Hong Kong police it looked like a sting operation. Undercover officers arranged a deal to smuggle three Mercedes Benz cars to China and arrest the buyers when they took delivery. Things fell apart, however, when the police found themselves looking down the gun-barrels of the cars' recipients who, it turned out, were also police officers — of the People's Republic.

Now, the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities are trying to defuse what has become known as the Mercedes affair, a row that has added to the severe local jitters over China's future rule here and helped drive stock prices further down.

According to a detailed account given to the local legislature by the colony's security chief on Wednesday, two policemen pretending to be smugglers chartered a lighter and crew of five to deliver the cars. While still in Hong Kong waters, they met their mainland partners on May 2 and handed over the vehicles. The buyers then reappeared in uniform and Chinese forces detained the lighter, its tug and all aboard. After frantic exchanges between Mr William Erhman, the Hong Kong political adviser, and his counterpart at the local Chinese mission, the two police officers were released the

next day, but the crew and their craft are still being held. The Chinese deny the seizure took place in Hong Kong waters and are accusing the crew of smuggling. However, after the Hong Kong Government produced photographs this week, the Chinese version has softened. Mr Ye Xuanping, the Governor of Guangdong, the neighbouring province, said yesterday he hoped a joint account might soon be released. "They sort of did a double take and squirmed when they were shown the photographs," a British official said. "But they're never going to admit it was officials smuggling."

Alarm in Hong Kong over the Chinese behaviour intensified when the security chief revealed that Chinese vessels had tried to enforce jurisdiction in Hong Kong waters no fewer than 82 times since 1988. The incident has heightened a widespread belief that the British and Hong Kong authorities are submitting to intimidation by China.

Yesterday, the South China Morning Post said it was clear that "Chinese security officials were caught in the act of smuggling luxury cars to the mainland for the use of elite buyers and were prepared to use force to make their escape across the border". The newspaper warned that "if the matter is settled behind closed

doors, the suspicion will remain in the public mind that face has been saved... only by an agreement to fudge the facts. Once again, truth will be the first casualty, with confidence in the future China-Hong Kong Special Administrative Region not far behind."

However, members of the legislature called for officials on both sides to resolve the affair "with a low-key approach". According to intelligence reports quoted in the press yesterday, the three cars were intended as "gifts" for high-ranking officials in Guangdong. The police say the supply of luxuries to communist officials has swollen into a huge industry. One bank account seized this year showed a single operation netting \$5.13 million. Astronomical sums are said to be made from shipping cars, electronics and whisky into China and bringing back antiques, guns and ammunition in payment. The Mercedes deal was a relatively rare one, according to police. Normally, the smugglers prefer Japanese cars of types commonly used by officials in China.

"Chinese officials from different security departments are all vying to protect their investments," the Far Eastern Economic Review reported recently. This has led to clashes in Hong Kong waters and between members of Triad gangs, which dominate organized crime in Hong Kong.

Kohl hails German 'birth hour' as pact on Mark is signed

From Ian Murray, Bonn

AT THE desk in the graceful Palais Schaumburg where Konrad Adenauer worked, the finance ministers of the two Germanies yesterday signed the treaty marking the first and most purposeful step in the peaceful reunification of their countries.

Presiding at what he called "the birth hour of a free Germany" was Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, doubling as midwife and godfather of the treaty on economic, currency and social union that will introduce the powerful Deutschmark as the only coinage of both countries from July 2.

The Chancellor's voice shook with emotion as he spoke of "the realization of the dream of German and European unity". Dwarfing Herr Lothar de Maizière, his diminutive East German counterpart, in size and confidence, Herr Kohl seemed aware that he was in large measure responsible for having made possible "this historic hour in the life of the German nation".

He had chosen the cabinet room in what was the old Chancellery for the ceremony. Unused since 1976, it has

become a kind of shrine to the first and, to date, most venerated of West Germany's Chancellors. Herr Kohl, a Christian Democrat who likes to think of himself as Adenauer's political grandson, wanted to show that the first treaty on union was a direct descendant of the Basic Law that Adenauer turned into the democratic foundation of the modern German nation.

The treaty itself means that the Bundesbank will take over the running of the bankrupt East German economy, which is estimated to be running a budget deficit of DM 33 billion this year (£11.87 billion), growing to DM 53 billion in 1991. Against this it is to be paid credits of DM 7 billion this year and DM 10 billion next year.

In return for being able to exchange its useless currency at parity for the Deutschmark from July 2, East Germany has undertaken to repeal all the legislation that was supposed to create a planned social economy. This will allow West German investment to pour in, confident that it can make a handsome profit by developing the other half of the country. It is also

meant to limit the amount of public money needed to reconstruct the rundown infrastructure.

As part of what Herr Kohl frequently referred to yesterday as "the solidarity of the German people", the West German Government yesterday drew up a second supplementary budget of DM 2.75 billion to provide initial funding for the pensions and inevitable unemployment benefits that will be needed as the free market economy "shakes out" unproductive workers.

The economic details of the treaty, however, were less important to Herr Kohl than the historic opportunity to put an end to all the sorrows of the past century. He had earlier recognized the role Germany had played in provoking those sorrows. In compensation he now urged that the German people, united in freedom, "should serve in a united Europe for the peace of the world".

For Herr de Maizière, the day was "important" rather than historic. The treaty itself represented a compromise, he said, but it was still a good, solid guide for creating "an



Herr Romberg, left, and Herr Waigel signing the treaty as Herr de Maizière, second left, and Herr Kohl look on

ecologically orientated social market economy". Member of the Christian Democrats (CDU) though he is, Herr de Maizière appeared to pick this phrase from the programme of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

He admitted that being taken over by the Deutschmark economy gave East Germany a starting position that no other East European state

would enjoy: "We stand before an important, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We want that opportunity to use freedom, peace and social justice in the service of Europe."

Herr Theodor Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, was first to sign the 33-page treaty followed by Herr Walter Romberg, his East German counterpart.

Between now and late June,

the Volkskammer is likely to be busy drafting and redrafting the legislation needed to introduce a free market economy. Since the members are now to be paid DM 5,900 monthly (£2,122) they will probably not mind the extra work.

Towards the end of next month, the Volkskammer will be called upon to ratify the treaty, but there is expected to

be no difficulty in winning the necessary support from two-thirds of the members.

The Bundestag members, who must ratify the treaty by a simple majority, will be coming back for a special session during their holidays on June 23 to do so. The SPD is still complaining that it does not like many of the terms of the treaty, but the Chancellor is confident nothing can stop it.

Nuclear talks make progress

Moscow

MR James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday that he had made progress in five hours of talks with President Gorbachov on a treaty to cut superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons.

"We made some progress on Start (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)," Mr Baker told reporters after the meeting, which ran 2½ hours over schedule.

His statement, by far the most optimistic to emerge from either side in weeks, left a clear impression that the superpowers now stood a good chance of being able to announce an outline agreement when Presidents Gorbachov and Bush meet in Washington on May 30. "I'll be having a full-blown press conference tomorrow and I'll be glad to go into a lot more detail at that time," Mr Baker said.

Before the meeting began, President Gorbachov said he did not know if it would be possible to meet his and President Bush's declared goal of announcing an agreement in principle at the Washington summit. "We are doing our best to make sure we agree. We have to do this together. I think we are moving closer," he said.

Start was originally designed to cut superpower arsenals of strategic missiles by 50 per cent. However, exceptions have been written into the treaty that will make the real cuts more in the range of 30 to 35 per cent.

Mr Baker said teams of negotiators led by him and Mr Shevardnadze would meet again later yesterday. "We still have a number of issues that are still out there, and we're going to meet again," he said.

Asked if the goal of announcing agreement at the summit could be met, Mr Baker said: "We keep hoping that we can accomplish that. I know President Bush would like to see agreement on the major substantive issues and so would President Gorbachov." Broad agreement on Start was clearly intended to crown the summit. Failure to achieve that would be bound to be interpreted as a setback in relations.

No rushing, page 10

Push for party to quit poll in Prague

From Peter Green, Prague

THE Czechoslovak election campaign took on strident anti-communist overtones yesterday as four leading political parties called for the Communists either to withdraw from the polls or to be banned.

In a related development, Civil Forum yesterday suggested that members of the former secret police, the STB, were preparing a disinformation campaign to disrupt parliamentary elections scheduled for June 8 and 9.

The parties accused the Communists of "aiming to seize power anew", and said that their activities were "endangering Czechoslovakia's fragile democracy".

The statement was made by the People's Party, the Social Democrats, the Socialist Party and the Slovak Democratic Party, all of which are trailing in the polls.

In a front-page reply yesterday, the Communist newspaper, *Rude Pravo*, called the demand for the party to be banned a "cheap pre-election trick". The rebirth of the Communist Party into a legitimate political force of the left is a long and painful process for many of its members, the daily said.

It proceeded to tar its opponents with their own brush, accusing them of kowtowing to the Communists' totalitarian regime.

"Even the Socialist Party and the People's Party were for four decades part of the now-decayed totalitarian system, and brought to it willingly or unwillingly the required sacrificial offerings."

Meanwhile, Civil Forum's leader, Mr Jan Urban, said dozens of members of the STB had been dismissed from the Interior Ministry in the past 48 hours, and suggested that they were behind an extensive disinformation campaign aimed at disrupting the elections. He said it was unlikely that foreign sources were involved.

Walesa plea ends strike at shipyard

Gdansk

MR LECH Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, ended a strike by Gdansk shipyard workers yesterday, telling them worker "anarchy" would damage Poland's image abroad.

Solidarity sources said almost all of the shipyard's 7,200 workers downed tools on the morning shift to protest against low pay and allegedly unfair distribution of planned wage increases. They returned to work almost four hours later after Mr Walesa told them Solidarity leaders would negotiate on their behalf.

"If you behave in such an anarchic way, the world which wants to help Poland will turn its back on us instead," Mr Walesa told a rally of some 3,000 workers.

The strike ended as a Labour Ministry spokesman announced unemployment in Poland was climbing faster than the Government expected. He said yesterday that 398,526 people, 2.96 per cent of the workforce, were registered as jobless on May 15. (Reuters)

Guerrillas suspend fight

Lima

A FACTION of the Maoist guerrilla movement, Shining Path, announced yesterday that it would "temporarily withdraw" from armed actions in its 10-year-old war to overthrow the Peruvian Government (Corinae Schmidt writes). The announcement came in leaflets left on the streets of the Andean city of Ayacucho. The "Ayacucho Base" of the organization announced the temporary ceasefire in order "to evaluate ten years of struggle", criticizing the killings of workers and peasants, but declaring that the ideological struggle would continue.

Lebanese held

Tyre — The South Lebanese Army, Israel's proxy militia, has arrested five Lebanese Christians in connection with the assassination in March of Mr William Robinson, an American missionary. (AFP)

Aquino warned

Manila — The United States warned President Aquino that it could pull out of its military facilities in the Philippines unless Manila based its alliance with Washington on more than money. (Reuters)

Shamir plea

Jerusalem — Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the transitional Israeli Prime Minister and leader of the Likud party, has asked for a further three weeks in which to form a government.

Demands met

Abidjan — The Ivory Coast Government agreed to meet the demands of conscripts who took over the airport and TV on Wednesday before returning to barracks. (AFP)

Careless talk

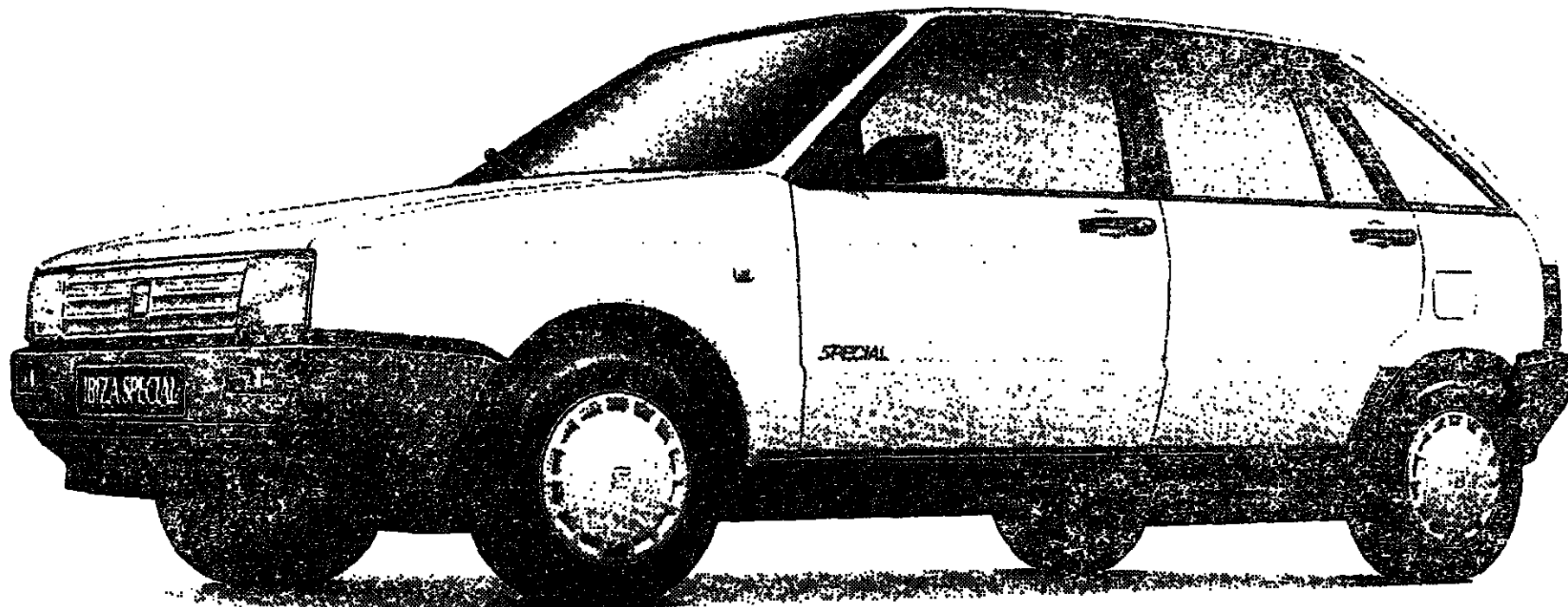
Lubbock, Texas — Mr Otto Lucas, aged 21, the son of a former Panamanian President has been found not guilty of threatening to kill President Bush while talking in a pawn shop, where he was looking at a gun. (AFP)

Killer executed

Angola, Louisiana — Dalton Frejan, aged 30, who fought to escape death on grounds that he was a mentally retarded teenager when he committed murder, was executed by electric chair. (AFP)

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The Romanian election

Observers 'too late' to monitor intimidation

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

A SENIOR Western official invited to Romania yesterday to monitor tomorrow's election said that the observers had arrived too late to assess the fairness of a campaign dominated by allegations of intimidation, and are too few to judge a vote being conducted in 13,000 polling stations.

The observer, who asked that his identity should not be disclosed, was a British member of the 60-strong delegation organized jointly by Democrat and Republican Institutes in the United States. Its members from 19 countries were among 260 observers registered by noon yesterday to oversee an electorate of almost 16 million.

Co-leaders of the group, which yesterday formally met Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President, are Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, Senator Joseph Lieberman, and the former senator and American astronaut, Mr Harrison Schmitt.

Other British political personalities who will be observing the poll in different capacities include Dr Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party, and Mrs Edwina Currie, the Conservative MP

who will be based in Timisoara.

"My impression is that the ruling National Salvation Front deliberately avoided giving the go-ahead for a full team of observers, until it was certain about 10 days ago that it would win," the British observer said. "Until then, there were real doubts that any of us would be permitted to come." He added: "If it becomes clear that the Front's conduct of the campaign was undemocratic, it will be much more difficult for us to prove that now. There is a real danger that we could be used to give our blessing for an exercise that was not conducted properly at all."

The number of observers, which officials say could rise to about 430 by the time polling begins at 6am tomorrow, compares with some 3,000 sent recently to Nicaragua, which has a much smaller electorate. Their first findings will be presented publicly on Monday, after they return to Bucharest from some 300 polling stations scattered around the country.

Controversy has dogged the campaign from the start, with right-wing and centre-right opposition parties presenting detailed lists of alleged violence and intimidation by supporters of the Front, which has been accused of manipulating the media. Already the conduct of the campaign has been sharply criticized by the US and British governments. Viciously needed foreign aid from both Washington and the European Community is understood to be conditional on the observer teams giving their stamp of approval to the conduct of the poll.

The task facing the observers has been further complicated by the complexity of voting procedures, in a country which has had no experience of a freely conducted poll for over 50 years. With 72 parties competing, many of them little more than offshoots of the Front, the voting booklet handed out to voters in the Bucharest region will be 38 pages thick.

In a country obsessed by security, where informing for the Securitate was until recently a way of life for some 700,000 citizens, attempts have been made to ensure anonymity. Instead of using a pen, voters will use a specially provided rubber stamp, which could be re-used on a wide scale if fraud is being attempted.

The closing stages of the campaign saw allegations that outdated lists of voters had been used.

Voters will be choosing a new president from three candidates. Mr Iliescu has emerged as clear favourite. If no one secures 51 per cent of the total, there will be a re-run among the two front-runners. The voters will also be electing a House of Deputies and a Senate.

Leading article, page 11



Budding democracy: Carrying a rose, Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim Romanian President, meets a television director as he is escorted into a Bucharest studio for a live broadcast with his three leading election rivals

Iliescu set to consolidate power but bitter campaign leaves a legacy of instability

From Our Special Correspondent, Bucharest

Campaigning in Romania's first free election since 1937 ended on the same sour note on which it began, leaving observers convinced that the result to be announced next week will be unable to heal divisions which have made the country the most unstable in Eastern Europe.

Opponents of the National Salvation Front have demanded from the outset of the bitter and violent campaign, that all former Communist Party activists be excluded from standing for office for 10 years. But Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President, has successfully stonewalled on the demand of thousands of demonstrators.

Mr Iliescu, who has a commanding lead in all the opinion polls, has done little to disguise his communist roots. Even during the now-historic television broadcast last December, when he announced the arrest of Nicolae Ceausescu, he addressed his fellow revolutionaries as "comrades".

He joined the Union of Young Communists at the age of 14, was educated in Moscow for five years, and for 10 years was a non-voting member of Ceausescu's Politburo. He was also a full member of the Central Committee. While such a past has infuriated students and intellectuals who make up the majority of supporters of the main opposition parties, it has done little to disturb the blue-collar

workers who form the bulk of the Front's supporters and are expected to turn out in large numbers when polling begins in 13,000 stations on Sunday morning.

The Front, an ad hoc collection of old communists, military men and intellectuals (some of whom have since resigned in disillusion), which took control last December, has consolidated its position by taking over the old Communist Party structure in all the main industrial plants.

Mr Iliescu has since succeeded in deepening the divide in Romanian society by satisfying the basic needs of ordinary citizens, such as food, heat and light, which were denied by the paranoid dictator. At the same time, he has refused to ease the central control as his intellectual opponents have been demanding.

"The point about this election is that it was never fought fairly from the outset," explained an official from the National Peasant Party, the most right-wing opposition group. "The Front had a grip on the central organs of information, and never let them go. I hope that the international observers will look into that, as well as watching how fairly votes are counted."

His complaint was supported by the Washington-based Human Rights Law Group, which made a fact-finding tour last month and

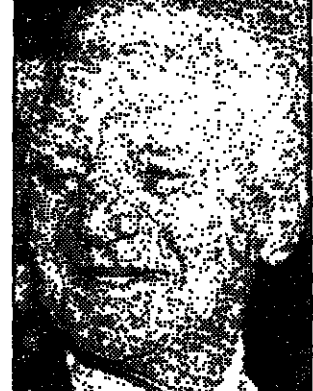


Electoral outsiders: Mr Radu Campeanu, Liberal leader, and Mr Ion Ratin of the Peasant Party

whose report is understood to have reinforced the Bush Administration's deep scepticism about a poll whose results will dictate the leadership of the country for the next two years.

The group claimed that the Front's advantages were "amplified by the Government's control of television, printing presses and newspaper, distribution of national and opposition print media, international communications networks, and air and ground transport".

The rights group, one of the few to have made an in-depth study of the bizarre political legacy left by Ceausescu's 24-year rule, added: "There are widespread complaints that the newspapers distributed by the Government, especially those of the opposition parties



and certain independent papers, often fail to reach their destination, are not delivered promptly or are returned when they could have been sold."

Mr Petre Bacanu, president of the 4,000-member Independent Journalists' Union and one of the few who publishes *Romania Libera*, snorted derisively when asked if readers in the provinces were getting their copies. "People on the trains simply throw them off," he alleged.

Mr Netea, the manager of *Viitorul*, the centre-right National Liberal Party's newspaper, was more outspoken. He claimed that state-controlled haulage companies were in the hands of "neo-communists and Front supporters" who refused to deliver the paper

nationwide. "In Bucharest, the press distributor regularly either does not take our copies or only a small amount of them," Mr Netea added, pointing to stacks of newspapers several days old which, he claimed, had not been picked up.

Similar complaints have been made daily during the campaign about the Front's crude manipulation of its control of Romanian television, which since the revolution has played a central role in the lives of most citizens.

"Representatives of the opposition parties have had three minutes to tell their story from scripts held in their hands," said Mr Bacanu, echoing a complaint repeatedly voiced by frustrated voters. "Mr Iliescu could grin on the screen all day, and nobody at the television would mind."

Student anger over the campaign, which this week has erupted into illegal marches through Bucharest of a type not seen for months, has caused many of the revolutionaries who fought on the barricades against Ceausescu's tanks to dismiss the results.

"If the Front wins, and most people assume they will, the country will be in a big mess," claimed a science graduate, joining the demonstration. "People think we will just melt away, but that is not true. Those like us who fear that Gorbachev-style reformed communism is taking over the country will go on fighting it."

As well as listing statistics stripped of Ceausescu's fantasies for the first time in 24 years, *The Romanian Directory* is also reflective of a new approach: it can only be purchased for US dollars.

Seventy-three out of a total of 82 registered Romanian parties will be submitting candidates in next Sunday's poll, making comprehension of the polling sheets a daunting task. Voters have already been warned by a senior official that they will be "as thick as telephone books".

One group which did not make it was the self-styled "Shy Party", which the poet and former dissident, Mircea Dinescu, had hoped to found as a dig against what he saw as the nation's unhealthy clamour for power.

He later abandoned the idea and will be standing instead as an independent.

All around, small groups were warning themselves by burning paper. A self-appointed vigilante was trying to ensure sanitation, preventing the drinking or sale of alcohol and even, according to one member, "ensuring moral order among the men and women sleeping rough".

"I was here on December 21 at 11.30 pm when the students faced up to the dictator and the mood of determination was very similar," said Mr Alexandru Stefan, aged 31, a bearded computer engineer. "We do not hate the Front as we hated Ceausescu, but we hate that it stands for keeping us in communist chains. Why should we give up and go away after the election? Things will be even worse then if the Front wins and we are all certain that it will as it has managed to dupe the workers into backing it."

This remark indicates that the split between Romanian students and workers, whose ad hoc and short-lived alliance made the revolution succeed, may make the country virtually ungovernable.

Demonstrators sceptical over freedom's dawn

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

LIKE thousands of other disillusioned Romanians, Mrs Anca Finichiu has spent much of the bitter three-week election campaign demonstrating against the ruling National Salvation Front and the Communist records of most of its leaders.

At 3 am today she was still there, sitting proudly in a portable canvas chair with her daughter, Ioana, aged 14, sharing a picnic and vowing that she and her fellow protesters would never leave until "we are convinced that a true and not a pretend democracy has been established in Romania".

The number of protesters willing to sleep rough to guard a barricaded zone declared as "free of neo-communism" was 10 times greater than on any night since the marathon protest first began on April 22. "The Front are cowards. We do not believe they will dare to move us away because the whole world now knows that we are here," said Mrs Finichiu, who still spends her days working at a draughtsman's office where former friends refuse to speak to her because of her views. "They think that after the election we will just fade away. That is not true. I believe that even more people will come here."

A matronly woman she cuts an unlikely figure for a demonstrator. "I have brought my daughter because I want her to understand the real history of Romania's past and present," she said.

Her daughter Ioana said that at her high school the teachers tell pupils that those blocking the area now renamed "Liberty Square" were paid daily salaries by the main right-wing parties opposing the Front. "I now know that was a lie, that the people out here are people of conscience who are not paid by anybody," she said.

To prevent the Front using the security forces to break up the protest if, as widely expected, it wins tomorrow's poll, the demonstrators have applied to the United Nations for protection. They have established an early warning system to alert them to police attack and have vowed to return again and again if at any stage, the area — now completely blocked to traffic — is cleared.

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Many, like Mrs Finichiu, have suffered repeated personal threats. Their protest is illegal under a decree preventing any form of political meeting on polling day and for 48 hours preceding it.

"The telephone rings at home with threats from voices that my family know belong to former members of the Securitate," she said. "They say that I will be killed if I go on protesting. They are using the same tactics that Ceausescu used against the Romanian people."

All around, small groups were warning themselves by burning paper. A self-appointed vigilante was trying to ensure sanitation, preventing the drinking or sale of alcohol and even, according to one member, "ensuring moral order among the men and women sleeping rough".

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This remark indicates that the split between Romanian students and workers, whose ad hoc and short-lived alliance made the revolution succeed, may make the country virtually ungovernable.

Milestones on road to democracy

- Dec 15 - Timisoara parishioners cordoned house of dissident Rev Laszlo Tokes.
- Dec 16 - Clashes between Timisoara demonstrators and militia and Securitate.
- Dec 17 - Ceausescu orders ruthless repression of protests.
- Dec 18 - Ceausescu leaves for three-day visit to Iran.
- Dec 20 - Ceausescu returns.
- Dec 21 - Protesters clash with troops. "River of blood" in Bucharest.
- Dec 22 - Army changes sides. Ceausescu flees. National Salvation Front takes power.
- Dec 25 - Ceausescu and wife Elena tried and executed.
- Dec 26 - National Peasant Party re-forms.
- Dec 29 - One-party rule abolished.
- Jan 12, 1990 - Communist Party outlawed; decree is revoked days later.
- Jan 23 - Doina Cornea quits interim government.
- Jan 24 - Front sets election date for May 20. Vice-President Dumitru Mazilu resigns.
- Jan 27 - Four associates of Ceausescu sentenced to life.
- Jan 30 - Front supporters besiege opposition party headquarters.
- Feb 2 - Agreement on interim parliament including all political groups defuses tension.
- Feb 6 - Tourism Minister Mihai Lupu resigns.
- Feb 9 - First session of provisional parliament.
- Feb 10 - Coal miners strike.
- Feb 13 - Provisional parliament confirms Ion Iliescu as President.
- Feb 17 - Officers force resignation of Defence Minister.
- Feb 18 - Protesters ransack government headquarters.
- Mar 1 - General Gica Popa, who condemned Ceausescu to death, commits suicide.
- Mar 20 - Three people are killed and 226 wounded in Targu Mures.
- Apr 11 - Former King Michael refused entry.
- Apr 22 - Several hundred demonstrate in Bucharest accusing Government of being Communists.

BUCHAREST NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Roulette on the cards in Ceausescu's palatial folly

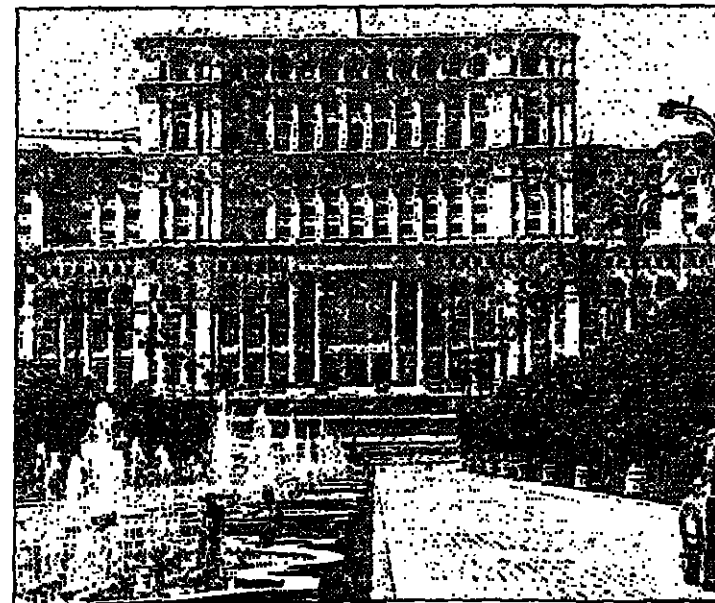
FIVE months after the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, no final decision has yet been taken about the future of the unfinished, 17-storey, 450-room palace he was building for himself and Communist Party cronies in the centre of Bucharest.

A number of ideas for its future have been floated, ranging from Ceausescu-style destruction by bulldozers to conversion into the headquarters of some body attached to the United Nations or other international organization.

The latest plan being mooted in the upper ranks of the ruling National Salvation Front is to convert the building into a giant casino, and invitations have been sent out to a consortium of Hong Kong investors with an eye to their taking over the premises. They are due to make a reconnaissance trip soon.

"It would be the biggest casino in the former communist world," explained one Front official, who added that a final decision would not be taken until after tomorrow's election. If the plan is approved by the Hong Kong entrepreneurs, neighbouring flats once intended to house senior Communist officials and Securitate agents would be converted for use by the international high-rollers the casino would aim to attract.

The deceptively named "Palace of the Republic" took a team of 17,000 workmen eight years to build and is still some nine months



Dictator's palace: Transformation into a casino is under consideration

from completion. Earnings from gambling in hard currency are seen by Romanian Treasury officials as one possible escape route from the country's dire economic plight.

Other plans put forward, and rejected, have been to convert the grotesque, Stalin Gothic structure into a national museum or a university. Many ordinary Romanians find its dominance of the skyline obscene and would prefer it flattened. "It is an exact replica of the system itself," one said after a recent visit. "Nothing more than an overdone facade, totally devoid of content."

One complaint frequently voiced by opposition politicians is that officials who are still to the forefront of national life. My own limited experience tends to support them. One journalist who was my round-the-clock minder during a pre-revolutionary visit in 1987 is now a senior figure in the journalists' union, while the former press attaché in Romania's Moscow embassy — who did his best to prevent Western journalists getting visas — is now the back-slapping deputy director of the election press office...

Among the more bizarre reaches of Ceausescu's paranoia was his hatred of dog shows and those associated with them. Under his dictatorship, the activities of the once-thriving Canine Association of Bucharest were banned, allegedly because of the opportunity that they offered to people to gather in large numbers.

The association has now been revived and recently staged an impressive comeback show in the Giulesti Stadium which combined training demonstrations with the once-popular Romanian sport of greyhound racing (also prohibited under the Communists).

Among the breeds on show were German shepherds and a magnificent Transylvanian bloodhound. So great was the enthusiasm of a public previously deprived of innocent forms of recreation ranging from decent television to yoga — now also thriving in the post-revolutionary era — that the next show is scheduled for July 1.

One of the more eloquent obituaries to the death of communism in Eastern Europe is to be found in the first official handbook of Romanian political and economic statistics to be issued since Ceausescu's overthrow. Published this week to coincide with the close of the election campaign, it states in one key section: "Romania's economy as inherited from the dictatorial

regime is mainly characterized by excessive centralization; rigid planning; imbalances among the productive branches and sub-branches; forced, overdimensioned industrialization without correlation with the country's resources; systematic failure in the fulfilment of annual and five-year plans; discrepancy between the consumption of resources and the results obtained; exaggerated cutbacks in imports and the forced promotion of exports at any cost, by sacrificing any criteria of efficiency."

As well as listing statistics stripped of Ceausescu's fantasies for the first time in 24 years, *The Romanian Directory* is also reflective of a new approach: it can only be purchased for US dollars.

Seventy-three out of a total of 82 registered Romanian parties will be submitting candidates in next Sunday's poll, making comprehension of the polling sheets a daunting task. Voters have already been warned by a senior official that they will be "as thick as telephone books".

One group which did not make it was the self-styled "Shy Party", which the poet and former dissident, Mircea Dinescu, had hoped to found as a dig against what he saw as the nation's unhealthy clamour for power.

He later abandoned the idea and will be standing instead as an independent.

Nuclear talks make progress

James Baker, the secretary of State, said today that he had progress in five hours of talks with President Gorbachev, ready to cut some of the long-range missiles.

We made some progress. Start (Strategic Reduction Treaty) will be signed after the end of the month.

His statement, by contrast, is optimistic in the clear impression that the two sides are now close to an agreement on the number of missiles to be destroyed. Mr Baker said that the talks were "a lot more detailed" than previous ones. Before the meeting, President Gorbachev had said that he was not sure if it was possible to meet the deadline for the signing of the treaty.

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An imam in the House

Clifford Longley

Reform of the House of Lords has just been put on the Labour Party's agenda for its next term at government, whenever that may be. But Lords reform might be enough to precipitate the disestablishment of the Church of England — and Labour might then have bitten off much more than it wants to chew.

The legal establishment of the church today consists of one great church-state symbol and several modest church-state ties. The symbol is the Crown, as head of state and supreme governor of the church. Apart from that, and the question of buildings and money, the remaining non-ceremonial bonds between church and state consist of the parliamentary veto over ecclesiastical legislation, the prime minister's role in the appointment of archbishops and bishops, and the presence of two archbishops and 24 senior bishops in the House of Lords.

In negotiating the 1976 agreement which resulted in the creation of the Crown Appointments Commission, the then prime minister, James Callaghan, insisted (with Conservative approval) that because bishops sat ex officio in the Lords, 10 Downing Street had to have a voice in who they were to be; otherwise a non-governmental body would have acquired the power to nominate members directly to the second chamber of Parliament. The commission therefore has to submit two names for each appointment to Downing Street, and the prime minister is free to select either.

If bishops were no longer to sit in the House of Lords, or if its membership were decided by a method other than heredity or political nomination, the Callaghan case for a political hand in choosing the church's chief pastors would disappear. Furthermore, the right of bishops to sit in the Lords is often cited as a quid pro quo for the right of either house to overrule the General Synod on church measures.

Aside from Lords reform, the prospect of disestablishment is still fairly remote, though the calm is deceptive. Politicians tend to say they do not want to disturb the arrangement unless the Church of England asks them to, and most churchmen seem to think there is still a rough balance of advantage and disadvantage. But loss of the right to put bishops in the House of Lords would remove one of the chief attractions, the quid without the quo. The church would then demand its release from the parliamentary veto, and the freedom to choose its own leaders.

Irrespective of more radical reform, there is already pressure — even from Anglican bishops — to broaden the base of the ecclesiastical presence in the Lords. Judging from their modest attendance records they find the Lords burdensome, and would gladly unload some of the work onto other denominations. Dr John Vincent, president of the Methodist Conference, recently called for Roman Catholic and Non-conformist leaders to be represented alongside Anglican bishops, in proportion to their active membership. He pointed out that the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jakobovits, already sits in the Lords, and called for places for Muslim and other leaders.

The elevation of Lord Jakobovits caused no great problem. Nor would there be much difficulty in selecting prominent Free Churchmen for life peerages. But getting Roman Catholic bishops into the House of Lords would be another matter. They would insist that their membership was on the same basis as the Anglican bishops — as Lords Spiritual rather than Lords Temporal — not only so that they could leave the Lords when they retired (as Anglican bishops do now), but also because Pope John Paul II has forbidden all priests and bishops to accept political appointments.

Dr Vincent's best hope would be to persuade the Pope that the Lords Spiritual are uniquely non-political parliamentarians whose origin predates the Reformation (and so must have been approved by one of his medieval predecessors). In any event, an extension of the category of Lords Spiritual would require an Act of Parliament, and once MPs started tinkering with membership of the Lords, it is hard to see how they could be made to stop. And if, in spite of the difficulties, Dr Vincent's vision of a bench of rabbis, imams, Free Church prelates and Catholic bishops in the Lords ever came about, the Anglicans would want to know why they, alone, had to pay for their membership by submitting their affairs to parliamentary supervision, and their choice of leaders to prime ministerial discretion.

Another solution would be to withdraw the ecclesiastical presence entirely, leaving the politicians free to do what they like with the House of Lords. But that would depend on whether the intention was to use that chamber as a council of national elders, representing all strands of British life, or to politicize it as a second arena for party conflict.

Labour's thoughts seem to be moving towards the latter, which is probably a mistake. But if as a result of either sort of reform the three functioning parts of the English church establishment were removed, the church would have changed from an English form of church-state relationship to the Scottish form, purely symbolic, without constitutional implications. But the Scots tend to say that if their own kind of establishment did not exist, they would not dream of inventing it as it matters so little, however, there is no point in dismantling it.

That is not a particularly enthusiastic recommendation for the Church of England to follow. There would be more appeal in going the whole way.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

A student journalist friend tells me I am doing everything wrong, for I have never learned about the "inverted pyramid". This is the basis of all successful newspaper writing, he explains.

"All the important part of what you want to say should come in the top few lines. From then on, importance should dwindle. Never say anything much towards the end."

The reason is that most readers only stay with you for a few sentences, then their attention wanders. So the wise writer, picturing himself shedding readers almost from the point when he first puts pen to paper, packs everything he can into the top of the end he can expect almost no readers at all.

This strikes me as a self-justifying prophecy. Certainly if essays do run out of steam after 30 seconds' attention, readers will develop the mental habit of giving each article just that, and no more.

But why should we writers lie back and accept this? Should we not fight it — sprinkle the important bits quite randomly around, so readers learn the virtuous habit of ploughing patiently through the whole thing, never sure the Easter egg may not be concealed under the very last bush?

But then again, maybe the pyramid convention suits me; for by ignoring it myself, I can ensure that the significant part of my thinking is expressed in the section nobody reads. On the whole I would prefer this. On the occasions when I do try to say anything of consequence, I find my audience is irritated, I find my secretary is irritated, I find my audience is irritated, I find my secretary is irritated, I find my audience is irritated, I find my secretary is irritated.

Have you gone yet? Good. Then it is safe to explain a theory I've been nursing for months. I believe you can tell how stupid people are by the size and position of their ears.

This insight first came to me when walking half the length of a train to fetch some tea from the buffet car. Buffets are in the

middle, whereas I always sit in the front coach or the last, as we were not put on this earth to be indecisive.

Walking a train takes you through assorted carriages — including the smoking car — offering a snapshot of all sorts and conditions. Those who do this will know that by their primness, the anti-smoking fascists have missed a devastatingly effective theme for their campaigns.

For it is increasingly plain that the nicotine habit is moving downmarket, and fast. Any smoker (and some of these are my friends) who is not a yob, mutant, inadequate, unemployed wheel-tapper or greasy-haired teenage slut in white stiletto heels will know that such is the company he must now keep in trains. And some of these latter are my friends, too.

It is wonderful how war throws the classes together. Smoking cars these days are a tense coalition of that dwindling species, the educated smoker, shoulder to shoulder with nine empire lager cans, and women with tattoos — united, now, only by their craving for nicotine and their fear of the anti-smoking brigade.

It is a pitiful sight, as here and there, copies of *The Observer* open tremulously like endangered butterflies, among the starting flocks of the *Sunday Sport*. If the prohibitionists want a single statistic to spearhead the campaign I recommend, it should be the growing correlation between smoking and not washing your hair.

And thus it was that I first noticed how almost everyone in the smoking car had small ears, set low on their heads.

You probably think I'm joking. You probably think I'm trying to be provocative. My friends, the truth is provocative. Born in the smoking car, my theory has been carried to the world beyond, and refined down to apply to white males, among whom it seems to work best. Significantly more stupid men have tinier, lower-slung ears than the average. I challenge science to prove me wrong.

Are you still here? No? Good. You can come back, now, I've finished.

Michael Evans on the fears of social upheaval that would follow mass demobilization

No rushing Moscow on troop cuts

The state of mind of the Soviet military has become a key factor in the negotiations over arms reductions and the future security stance of a united Germany. Until their anxieties are resolved, rapid progress in either area is unlikely.

It is clear from the visit to the Soviet Union this week by Tom King, the Defence Secretary, that the Soviet high command hopes for a more sympathetic attitude from the West. It cannot have been coincidence that Moscow recently produced new figures — 27 million — of the number of Soviet citizens killed in the Second World War. That explains the refusal to countenance a united Germany's membership of Nato.

This may be an emotional response, as Mr King suggested before he left Moscow yesterday, but in spite of the oft-repeated assurance that Nato is a defensive alliance, the Soviet command is apparently not yet convinced. But memories of past wars are not alone responsible for the foot-

stamping by the Soviet military. There is a fundamental conflict of interest between their avowed support for Gorbachev's reforms and foreign policies and their desire to protect their privileged position, to guarantee their effectiveness as a military superpower and to ensure that the thousands of soldiers who are to be demobilized are well treated.

These conflicting loyalties have become an obsession. For example, there is an unmistakable mood of confusion at the Lenin military/political academy in Moscow, which was founded in 1919 to keep the revolutionary spirit alive in the hearts of Soviet soldiers. The academy instructs political officers (commissars), as they used to be called, who are responsible for the Red Army's morale and discipline, both of which are under threat.

The officers who attended a lecture by Mr King at the academy earlier this week appeared genuinely amazed when he made no promise of British troop

withdrawals from West Germany in response to Soviet withdrawals from Eastern Europe. And because of years of anti-Western propaganda, his assurances of Nato's non-aggressive strategy fell on deaf ears.

The West may think that because of glasnost, which allows a British defence minister to travel around the Soviet Union and his Soviet counterpart to look round a British aircraft-carrier and to visit Aldershot, the commanders of the Red Army will at last grasp the point that they are not under threat of attack. But glasnost, at least as understood by the Soviet high command, should not be over-estimated. It is not yet ready to lay bare all its secrets. Although Mr King did enjoy an unprecedented demonstration of openness, it was confined to those areas in which the military knew it could shine. The visit to the airborne forces unit at Ryazan, south of Moscow, was an obvious example. The commander said the officer training school, where

cadets undergo a rigorous four-year course, has 16 applications for every place.

On the other side of the coin, however, the official number of draft-evaders in the Soviet Union is rising — from 1,044 in 1988 to 6,647 last year. The increase in draft evasion is particularly noticeable in the Leningrad military district, where it was 18 times greater than in the previous year, in the Baltic states (24 times), the Carpathian military district (10 times) and Kiev (23 times). In one recent article in the Soviet military press, it was claimed that many young people eligible for conscription are not physically fit and that many are suffering from various ailments. The sickness rate among conscripts in 1988 was 29 per cent higher than the 1981 figure.

Marshal Dmitry Yazov, promoted by Gorbachev from general, is taking an increasingly hardline position to protect the forces from what he sees as a growing public antipathy. Public respect for the armed services has

certainly declined dramatically, raising serious questions about use of the military to quell domestic unrest. A dramatic increase in harassment and crimes against military personnel in the streets has been reported. According to military officials, the number of officers murdered showed a dramatic increase from two in 1988 to 59 last year.

Although the internal issues are a matter for the Soviet Union, they present a problem for the West as well. For if the Russians are pressed too hard to sign a conventional arms treaty which ties them down to a rigid implementation programme — in line with President Bush's proposal for a 1993 timetable — the Soviet military hierarchy will be unable to cope with the huge demobilization required under the planned agreement.

The Soviet Union will need more than three years to reduce its forces in Eastern Europe to 195,000. That is one concession the West can afford.

When our past is all around us, how can we ignore it?

Raphael Samuel believes those who want to play down British history as jingoistic do a disservice to children — indigenous and new arrivals alike

If there is a single issue which has propelled history into public debate, it is the nationality question, which, under the impact of New Commonwealth immigration and settlement and the European Community, is increasingly replacing the social question as the storm-centre of British politics. For Conservatives, national history is a way of restoring a lost sense of the indigenous. History, in their view, instils in children a greater pride in being British, and a greater sense of continuity in national life.

On the left, the very idea of a national history is suspect, being said to exclude ethnic minorities and to flatter national conceits. The privileged position given to British history in the National Curriculum has been denounced by Labour's spokesman as "jingoist", and some fear a return to insularity and ethnocentrism.

Teachers and scholars engaged in "history from below" have attempted to sidestep the issue of nationality, by advancing the claims of local and regional studies, or culture and community — "lived experience". In schools, "New" history has by-passed national history, by concentrating on the one hand on the modern world and, on the other, initiating children into the subject through the domestic and the familiar.

The government's History Working Party, shares some of these inhibitions. Though bending to the minister's requirement that the time devoted to history lessons to British history should be increased from 40 to 50 per cent, it is understandably more concerned to balance competing claims on the new syllabus, and to maintain a pluralist perspective.

Yet whether we like it or not, history is a national question. Even in local history, the nation remains an inescapable frame of reference. Nor can the history of minorities escape it, since it is in opposition to majorities that minorities are defined. Peculiar double-standards are at work among those who advocate a

history which starts from the familiar, and yet jib when the nation is in question, advocating instead a "global" view. Moreover, even if the idea of the nation is expelled from the classroom, it will remain potent in the playground and, less inhibitedly, on television and the football terraces. If historians refuse to teach it, plenty of others will volunteer.

Does one have to be indignant to engage with the national past? Must such a study alienate those whose ancestral roots lie elsewhere? On the contrary, one can argue that there are advantages in a study of history from the perspective of an outsider, and that it involves a questioning of the taken-for-granted (Asians, for example, may question whether the British are a Christian people). History opens many more doors than it closes. Far from repelling outsiders, it has often provided strangers with signposts. Some of our major national histories have been written by foreigners. The spirit of place may be fundamental to a sense of history, but as in literature and art, it can owe as much to the sense of exile or exclusion as to territorial roots.

If British history is to be restored to the curriculum, it should be for pedagogic not patriotic reasons: it is the country which children know best (they are not obliged to love it), whose language they speak (even if they are bilingual) and whose literature they read. To be ignorant of the past of the country in which one lives is to be politically and culturally disenfranchised.

There is no reason why British history need be inward-looking. The earliest printed histories of this country were concerned to establish a European pedigree for national existence. Contemporary history, if it is to take account of Britain's changed position in the world, needs to be still more universal. It might deliberately highlight developments centred elsewhere, such as the Reformation, and show the international scope of phenomena which might be thought purely indigenous,



such as the abolition of capital punishment in the 1960s.

Instead of (or as well as) considering the development of Britain as a "world power", it might be more profitable to consider this country as part of a larger whole, an off-shore island, say, in medieval Europe, which is how it appears on Hereford Cathedral's Mappa Mundi.

America would be as pertinent as Europe when following the fortunes of British Protestantism. Above all — if only to account for the dramatic effect of immigration — British history should treat the history of Empire as integral to our island story.

The very uncertainties surrounding British national identity today might make study of national history the more rewarding and demanding. The collapse of British power gives us a novel vantage point for understanding our national history. Trafalgar Day might be less pertinent than the fall of Singapore, the invention

of the spinning mule than the closure of Lancashire mills. Bilingualism now might alert us to the many speech communities in past times, and recognition of current ethnic diversity might bring into question the notion of an all-English past. The recrudescence of Celtic separatism might also encourage a different view of the nation, seen from Connaught or the Lothians, Dublin or Edinburgh, rather than Westminster.

British politics was dominated for nearly a century by what used to be called "the social question". The discovery of "the slum" in 1881-2, the invention of the term "unemployment" (which entered common currency in the same period) and perhaps fears of "race degeneration" gave the Condition-of-England Question a primacy which it retained, arguably, until the 1960s. Likewise in the 1920s, the polarization of politics on class lines was echoed in the classroom, where new textbooks made "the long march

of everyman" the unifying thread. The social question has profoundly democratized the study of the national culture, giving the dignity of history to ordinary people and everyday life, but if it enlarged the subject matter of history in many respects, it narrowed it in others. It had little to say about international relations, which were left to students of diplomacy; it usually ignored the history of Empire, and by giving a privileged place to protest movements, it was apt to begin with enclosure and the Industrial Revolution.

Where are the national question made a unifying thread of the history syllabus, it would take us back to much earlier pasts, asking children to join geologists and the archaeologists in considering the original conditions of island settlement and the permanent ecological features of national life. It would need to follow the record of overseas colonization and conquest, while at the same time showing how the nation was composed of warring and competing parts, showing such divisions as those between Celts and Anglo-Saxons, North and South, Church and Chapel, town and country. If it were concerned with heritage, it would need to consider the arts in their international relations as well as indigenous movements.

Above all, with the gathering movement for secession in Scotland and with the civil war in Ulster now in its 22nd year, with the powers of government and the sovereignty of Parliament in question, the study of British history should from the start emphasize its own problematic nature.

"Nation" is a harsher word than either "culture" or "society", and for socialists like myself many of its associations are negative. But it is an inescapable part of the historian's lexicon, and has the merit of unifying phenomena which otherwise tend to be considered in isolation. It has space for loyalties as well as material interests: hatreds and fears as well as the progress of reform. Since the nation confronts us each time we open the newspapers, we should not avert our eyes from it when we turn to the record of the past.

The author is an editor of *History Workshop Journal* and convenor of the conference on "History, the Nation and the Schools" at Ruskin College, Oxford, today.

Moscow calling the TV tune?

Is the KGB using glasnost as a cover for increasing manipulation of Western television. After Channel 4's controversial Kim Philby documentary, the BBC is to screen an interview with escaped double agent George Blake in the autumn. Journalist Tom Bower is now in Moscow interviewing Blake for an *Inside Story* programme — further proof, says Tory MP Rupert Allason, alias spy writer Nigel West, that the Western media are getting "more and more stupid about being manipulated. All hell will break loose if the BBC pays him." According to the BBC yesterday, there would be no such hell: "There will be no payment coming from us."

Blake, born George Behar in Holland in 1922, is understood to visit Rotterdam regularly to see his mother, with the full knowledge of the Dutch authorities. Since there is an extradition treaty between the two nations, and given the British authorities' keenness to retrieve sundry train robbers from South America, the lack of interest in the far more accessible Blake seems curious.

Blake belonged to British Naval Intelligence and was captured by the North Koreans, who passed him on to Moscow. There he was activated and returned to Britain to play a double game in M16, where he pre-empted suspicion by applying to pretend to be a double agent. His luck ran out in 1961, and he was convicted to 42 years inside. After serving only five, he was sprung from Wormwood

Scrubs by Michael Randle and Pat Potte, two peace campaigners whose case is under judicial review after the publicity about their role last year.

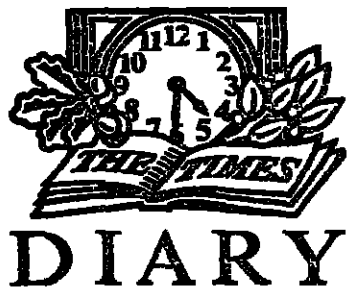
The BBC no doubt thinks it has a scoop, although it might not be as spectacular as it would wish. According to Allason, Blake's autobiography was once touted around British publishers but was said to be so boring that they all turned it down.

Unquestioning

The protestations of loyalty to Malcolm Rifkind, the beleaguered Secretary of State for Scotland, by Scottish Tory MPs are beginning to sound hollow. The party rallied round Rifkind after reports of a plot to oust him at last week's Scottish Conservative conference. But Rifkind, now under fire from all sides over British Steel's plans to close the Ravenscroft steel strip mill, will be agitated to learn that not one backbench Scottish Tory MP had bothered to table a friendly question when Scottish ministers are next due to answer at the dispatch box early next month.

The time-honoured practice of backbenchers bowling friendly full-tosses in the form of planted questions which the minister can then effortlessly smash to the boundary has been left to five Tory loyalists led by Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke), and not one of them nearer to Hadrian's Wall than Lancashire. They are vastly outnumbered by 45 Opposition MPs all vying to bowl Rifkind an unplayable googly.

Rifkind, however, can at least hope that a sizeable proportion of his attackers will fail to turn up.



Tory MP Rob Hayward has just analysed oral questions to ministers over a four-week period and discovered that of about 180 Labour members tabling questions, a quarter were not there on the day to ask them. Hayward plans to raise the matter with the Speaker, though Rifkind would probably prefer him to keep quiet in the hope that such absenteeism is catching.

Cue for abrupt exit

Ken Loach, left-wing enfant terrible of the British film industry, who is ruffling feathers at Cannes with *Hidden Agenda*, set in Northern Ireland, creates almost as much controversy off-screen as he does on. A committed trade unionist whose credits include *Kes* and *Cathy Come Home*, he has just resigned from the Directors Guild of Great Britain after accusing it of poaching members from the film union ACTT, and he urges fellow members to do the same. The Guild established itself as a trade union earlier this year and has sent members a questionnaire asking whether they plan to resign from the left-led ACTT. The Guild de-

nies that it is poaching and insists that it is merely responding to inquiries from members about dual membership.

The Guild enjoys, if that is the right word, almost universal opposition from other media unions. Alan Sapper, the ACTT leader, says: "The Directors Guild is a breakaway from us. It has no negotiating rights with anybody. It should have stayed as a pressure group, it promised us it would."

Facing facts

An appearance on *Spitting Image* is a sure sign that a politician has arrived. But Chris Patten, Environment Secretary, Tory blue-eyed boy and tipped by many as a future leader, should not get too excited after making his debut. The Patten puppet is the first in the series ever to be labelled "We were worried that no one would recognize him," a Central TV spokesman confessed. The producers resorted to this play after becoming increasingly frustrated at their inability to have much fun over the poll tax. David Hunt, the poll tax minister,

did not appear until earlier this month, also on the grounds of obscurity — though his puppet did not suffer the indignity of being labelled. His successor, Michael Portillo, presents the same problem. Help may be at hand, however. Portillo was at school with Geoffrey Perkins, the programme's former executive producer, who ought to be able to offer his old school chum advice on what it takes to become a household name — and face.

Why did Labour do so badly in the local government elections in London? Margaret Hodge, Labour leader of Islington council and chairman of the Association of London Authorities, has some down-to-earth advice. "We have to do the obvious things and do them well," she says in the latest issue of *Tribune*. "We have to clean the streets and answer the telephone."

See who's looking on Romania's first proper elections for 53 years have brought together an unholy alliance of British MPs in Bucharest as observers. One of the first to arrive yesterday in the hope of ensuring fair play was the Rev Ian Paisley, who flew in after campaigning in the Upper Bann by-election, where armed police guarded the ballot boxes. He is being joined by Edwin Currie, Roy Hattersley and Labour whip Robert Wareing. Dozens of peers and MPs applied to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to act as observers for tomorrow's poll. With accusations of gerrymandering by the ruling National Salvation Front threat in the air, this unlikely gang of four might, strangely, find common cause.



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ROMANIA ON THE RACK

A miracle may yet save Romania from the misfortune of a decisive victory for the ruling National Salvation Front at tomorrow's general election. The Front, in the guise of the country's "interim government", has fought a vicious campaign, marshalling behind it the whole former communist apparatus which, with dependants, accounts for some 5 per cent of the population.

In Bucharest and in the multi-ethnic parts of Transylvania to the west, where the rising against Ceausescu began, the Front emerged in its true colours: as the vampire of democracy. Further from the international limelight, in the remoter regions of Moldavia, the Front made it almost impossible for the two main opposition parties, the National Liberal Party and the National Peasants' Party, to campaign.

The opposition has itself made several serious mistakes, beginning with the decision to revive two old parties which were widely discredited half a century ago. Before and after the war, the Liberals and Peasants failed to hold the line against totalitarianism, both fascist and communist. In 1990 their successors again failed to unite against the common foe. Romania may now reap the consequences.

The opposition presidential candidates — Mr Radu Campeanu of the Liberals and Mr Ion Ratiu of the Peasants — are themselves septuagenarians, and may have hoped to revive old loyalties among the generation which remembers the pre-communist era. Any such advantage was outweighed by the ease with which the Front's leaders, President Ion Iliescu and Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister, have been able to divide their opponents.

They have presented Mr Ratiu, a wealthy London emigré until the revolution, as a reincarnation of the hoary old capitalist stereotype. Mr Ratiu, albeit an untainted anti-communist, was probably wrong to allow his name to go forward. As an exile, he was certain to arouse mixed feelings in a country which has suffered as much as Romania did under Ceausescu. In the comparable situation of 1945, Thomas Mann declined to let himself be installed by the victorious Allies as the figurehead of a democratic Germany. When the writer returned from Californian exile, he was dismayed by the hostility he encountered. Nations usually reward their Jeremiahs only posthumously.

Towards Mr Campeanu the Front has alternated between physical intimidation,

which is reported to have terrified him sufficiently to deter him from leaving the capital in the later stages of the campaign, and friendly overtures designed to compromise the Liberals with their supporters, who have bravely demonstrated against the Government in the squares of Bucharest and Timisoara. In the televised debate between the three presidential candidates broadcast on Thursday, Mr Campeanu appeared not to exclude the idea of a coalition with the Front.

The arrival this week of foreign observers ought to ensure fair play at the polling booths. With hindsight, there is little doubt that these scrutineers should have been present throughout the campaign. A concerted effort by the European Community to induce Mr Iliescu to submit to a strict monitoring regime might have had a real impact on the result.

The official Romanian media tried last weekend to misrepresent *The Times*' criticism of the belated British diplomatic protest as acquiescence in the Front's own denial of electoral malpractice. Such mendacity has typified its conduct ever since Ceausescu's overthrow. Official denials of the anti-Hungarian pogrom in Targu Mures in March inspire no confidence.

That is one reason for the West, for all Romania's neighbours, and for Hungary in particular, to treat any future government dominated by the Front with extreme caution. Another is the Front's economic platform.

Messrs Iliescu and Roman, once communists in the pro-Moscow minority of Ceausescu's party, now present themselves as straightforward Romanian nationalists. They promise job security and economic gradualism, in superficially attractive contrast to the economic shock treatment offered by the opposition. The Front has deliberately omitted to explain to a population still traumatized by the ordeal of Ceausescu's rule that foreign investors will refuse to come to Romania's rescue, unless its government is prepared to scrap not merely Ceausescu's most atrocious excesses, but his entire economic system.

The offers of continuity of employment to tens of thousands of state-employed workers in government, the security services and bankrupt "commercial" enterprises may win elections. They do not rescue economies. Mr Iliescu's advisers talk of introducing "market mechanisms" in three years time. Romania cannot wait that long.

CHANGING THE GUARD

Further questions will be asked about security at military bases in this country when the Commons defence committee reports next week. Instead of calling, as is expected, for much stricter vetting of private security firms hired by the Ministry of Defence, the committee should ask why Whitehall uses private companies in the first place.

The subject is inevitably sensitive. MPs began their four-month investigation in the shadow of last year's bomb outrage at Deal. Their report will follow hard upon two more IRA attacks in London. Policy should not be swayed by the emotion which such atrocities engender. The Government is right, for instance, to reject the use of security guards at Army careers offices and other "soft" IRA targets in town centres. To seal the Army off from the public would be to concede defeat to terrorism.

There are two compelling reasons why the policy of contracting out security should end, or at least be substantially modified. The first is that for the Armed Forces, trained to guard the country, to hire commercial firms to protect them is an absurdity. The second is that they could do the job better.

Arguments in favour of the practice have rested essentially on cost-effectiveness. Guarding MoD establishments is boring routine. Passes have to be checked, briefcases searched and the undersides of vehicles examined. The work, it is alleged, hardly requires a commando's training. It is a waste to release fighting men from the central front in Germany.

The job definition should be rethought, recognizing that constant vigilance requires people who are trained for it. Civilian security services have become a burgeoning industry.

SURFEIT OF DINOSAUR

The mystery is solved at last. Dr Thomas Wdowiak, of the University of Alabama, has revealed that the dinosaurs died out not because of gamma-rays, or climatic changes, or holes in the ozone layer, or even stupidity. They died of food poisoning. Mad dinosaur disease did them in.

Apparently there was an immense quantity of nickel lying about at the time. The beasts grazed off plants contaminated with the stuff, and before you could say "Another lousy film coming up" they all keeled over. (Other experts are said to be "sceptical of the idea", some no doubt certain that the cause was copper, not nickel, others pinning their faith to aluminium, and others insisting that it must have been a dodgy oyster).

Considering that the dinosaurs were trotting about at least 100 million years ago, they have an annoying habit of getting under the feet of contemporary passers-by. Another American contemporary passers-by, determined not to be outdone by Dr Wdowiak, has announced that he has found the bones of dinosaurs which were only two or three feet high.

P. T. Barnum, the great showman, used to publish advertisements claiming that his exhibition included "The tallest dwarf in the world". Customers rolled up in large numbers only to find a perfectly ordinary six-foot man only in a chair. That, surely, must cause jolting to fall on the American diggers. After suspicion to fall on the American diggers, could all the bones of a two-foot dinosaur could easily be confused with those of a reasonably sized Labrador. If the Prof blows his trumpet a little too loudly, he may find himself being belaboured with an umbrella for disturbing Fido's last resting-place.

Those who peddle their services possess uneven quality and experience. There is general recognition of the need for official scrutiny. But the Armed Forces would do better to take direct charge of military security, rather than continue to subcontract a vital area of operations, even under tighter controls.

The Ministry of Defence has begun to acknowledge this. It has recently confirmed that it is considering setting up its own special force, whose role would be to guard MoD establishments. This goes some way to answering the criticisms. But there is no evidence it needs a new body.

The ministry already employs its own police force, in addition to more than 300,000 servicemen. The recent Defence Estimates, moreover, committed it to spending £126 million on improving security at its military bases. To impose a fresh layer of bureaucracy on a budget which is already under strain hardly sounds like a sensible option.

The Government should revert to using servicemen to maintain security at their bases and MoD police at softer non-military targets. The argument that this would waste the energies of soldiers required to protect Western Europe has lost much of its force in recent months, and internal security against terrorism of all kinds has become a priority area for the forces.

After two decades on the streets of Northern Ireland, British soldiers have acquired an expertise which few civilian personnel could match. Recent events suggest that the best use should be made of these skills. To continue to hire private firms is not only unnecessary; it could be counter-productive. The vigilance required in standing guard is in itself a form of military training.

Even if they are real dinosaurs, they are something of a disappointment. Most people like their dinosaurs to be gigantic creatures of the utmost ferocity; there would be little interest in a dinosaur called Diddums which trotted along on a lead and was fed Winalot biscuits by its doting owner.

Nor does that exhaust this week's dinosaur news. Someone on the Isle of Wight, of all peaceful spots to start a row, has excavated not a dinosaur, nor even a dinosaur's femur, nor yet a half-chewed lump of nickel, but a dinosaur's footprint. He dug it out with a chisel, and it took him hours, but the National Trust, which owns the land on which the dinosaur stepped in the mud a hundred million years or so ago, insists that it belongs to them.

Smiles are flying. The Trust says that it is like taking a picture from one of their stately homes, whereas the man with the shovel maintains that it is like picking up a shell on the seashore, and in between there is a faction likening it to a fossil. There can be no doubt that the monster was the full-sized variety, not the lap-dinosaur kind; no doubt the Isle of Wight excavator would have spurned an offer of a footprint made by the miniature variety.

Perhaps a kind of dinosaur Crufts could be set up to settle all such matters; the committee could rule on the authenticity of the little ones and the ownership of the giant footprint. But it would be a very brave committee that dared to give an authoritative ruling on the cause of the dinosaurs' disappearance. Here's a disturbing thought; when we have disappeared, will there be a similar debate on what finished us off? Reading too much about dinosaurs, probably.

Britain's role in South Africa

From Sir Peter Fawcus

Sir, The two key men in South Africa, President de Klerk and Mr Mandela, are to have talks with Mrs Thatcher. She will be in a position, for a brief moment, to influence events in their country.

A constituent assembly which could serve as an interim government, on the Namibian model, is not necessary in South Africa; nor is it feasible on the ANC's (African National Congress) terms, which involve elections on a non-racial universal franchise. The immense preparatory task of compiling a voters' role would unduly delay the start of substantive negotiations on the new Constitution.

All that is required is a national convention, similar to that convened in 1908 to work out the details of a new Constitution, but constituted from representative leaders of the different political groups.

The ANC look forward to a time when they themselves, organised as a political party, may assume power in a united South Africa, but until there is a new dispensation after a constitutional settlement their prospects of doing so depend on the established government, the only power in the land capable of maintaining the integrity of the State. Without that power, deep-seated tribal and political conflicts could quickly lead to chaos.

In view of the probable duration of the main negotiations on the Constitution there is an urgent need for an interim government which will involve the blacks themselves in the task of creating a non-racial State and removing the vestiges of apartheid.

The tricameral Parliament should be replaced as soon as possible by a single chamber, which would include all races, early elections being achieved by means of communal representation.

The proportion of the different racial groups would be a matter for negotiation, but in view of the need for early agreement, this would be a time for an offer to the blacks of sufficient representation in Parliament and ministerial responsibilities in government to ensure their support.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. FAWCUS,
Dochart House,
Killin,
Perthshire,
May 17.

Tackling oil slicks

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden

Sir, The latest oil slick incident off the south-west coast (reports, May 14, 16, 17) shows once more the inadequacy of present arrangements for dealing with such occurrences. It took four days before a concerted attack was mounted on the slick, and the oil then taken failed to prevent the oil reaching the shore.

Proposals, of which I am joint inventor, have recently been made for a radically different approach to the containment of oil slicks. These involve the dropping from a low-flying aircraft or helicopter of a radio-controlled skimmer, which could be at the site of the disaster within an hour or two of its occurrence. The skimmer would float on the surface of the sea and as it was propelled through the slick its V-shaped booms would collect the oil into a replaceable reservoir at its base

Thames salmon

From Mr Peter J. Gough

Sir, Your recent reports (May 5, early editions, and May 7) of salmon freshly trapped at Mosely Weir, near Hampton Court, point to more proof of the success of our salmon restoration in the Thames. The work is now largely financed by the National Rivers Authority, with development work funded by the Thames Salmon Trust, a registered charity.

To ease the salmon's journey to their spawning grounds we are planning 22 fish-passes, or "ladders", which will allow salmon to ascend the otherwise impassable weirs. The Trust has already attracted sponsorship and donations for the construction of 12 of

Dunkirk evacuation

From Lord Keyes

Sir, I would like to correct two small but crucial dates given in Brian James's article (May 12). Operation Dynamo did not commence on May 17, 1940, nor did the surrender of the Belgian Army take place on that date. Lord Gort, Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force, decided on May 25 to race northwards to Dunkirk and "Operation Dynamo" began on May 26. Although my father, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes, was at King Leopold's side as Churchill's special liaison officer throughout the Belgian Army's 18-day campaign they were not informed of the British flight.

Leopold inspired his gallant army to prolong its resistance until May 28. Hence in the words of *The Times*' former Military Correspondent, Sir Basil Liddell Hart: "The British Army was saved from destruction by King Leopold... who was then violently abused in Britain and France".

Yours faithfully,
KEYES,
Elmscroft, Charlton Lane,
West Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent.

Fairer treatment of the 'underclass'

From the Director of the Runnymede Trust

Sir, Professor Plant ("Uplifting the underclass", May 15) makes some important points and misses others. Rarely have academia and the media been so seduced by a concept as sloppy and unsophisticated as that of the "underclass". Its continued use may produce more fog than light.

Men — and women — have been asking for money at railway stations in London for as long as I can remember. What is important, however, is the increase in young beggars in inner London. When I founded Centrepoint Soho, the all-night centre for young homeless 21 years ago, we saw very few young beggars although the signs of the increase in the numbers of the marginal were clear. The appearance of young beggars has been swift and dramatic.

In the USA, study of the underclass has become a highly profitable activity. But Britain differs markedly from New York, Chicago, and Detroit in that the bulk of the "underclass" are not black. Yet the warning signs are clear. As many black people have begun to ascend the ladder of affluence, the trends towards entrenchment of deprivation in districts of residential segregation have become sharper. The gap between the black bourgeoisie and the black poor has become wider. But again what is new? The black middle class is following the white majority.

We are talking not only about "the poor", but about those who feel they have no stake in society, who are non-citizens, and have lost their human dignity. Surely we need to be asking questions not about how to "uplift the underclass" but about what features of our society have led to such dehumanisation and oppression. And this must mean looking beyond poverty to the central values of the powerful. As R. H. Tawney wrote, what thoughtful rich people call the problem of poverty, thoughtful poor people call the problem of riches. Ought we not to be starting to debate further up the scale — with the "overclass"?

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH LEECH,
Director,
The Runnymede Trust,
11 Princelet Street, E1,
May 15.

From Professor Antony Flew
Sir, Professor Raymond Plant is very quick to reject Charles Murray's contention that welfare bene-

fits to those who are neither handicapped nor elderly should be cut rather than increased. But he fails to reveal Murray's reasons for so contending. They are that the massive researches reported in his *Losing Ground: American Social Policy 1950-80* have shown that in the USA hugely expensive poverty programmes have actually been counter-productive.

Instead of uplifting the underclass they have, if anything, tended to keep it down and to increase its numbers — above all by reducing or removing the traditional disincentives both to unmarried motherhood and to non-participation in the labour force.

By not revealing either Murray's reasons or his own reasons for rejecting these Professor Plant does an injustice. For this makes it seem that Murray is callous and indifferent. On the contrary: the truth is that it is precisely because he is so sincerely and so rationally concerned that he wants to have done with judging programmes and policies by their good intentions rather than by what he believes to be their actual bad results.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
May 15.

From Mr Fred C. Freeman
Sir, Members of governments and managements often fail to recognise the fact that, if they lower the morale of people, they also reduce the energy that could be creatively at work.

The more sense of responsibility people have through their social projects, the less likely will be their desire to overthrow the existing social order, because they will feel that they themselves are an effective part of a real establishment which has been originated by them.

The charitable voluntary sector as a whole may be viewed as an essential mediator between the State and the individual with their corresponding opposed dangers. Charitable purposes thus imply group activities intelligently aimed at mutual aid, and the provision of finance, by those who are able to give, for those less fortunate who would benefit by receiving.

Yours faithfully,
FRED FREEMAN (Chairman),
Give As You Earn (United Way),
8 Nelson Road,
Liverpool,
May 17.

Romania's future

From the Reverend John Johansen-Berg

Sir, Your report (May 14) on the rejection by Mr Iliescu of any interference by the British Government in the affairs of Romania highlights the complexities of the current situation.

I visited there in April and preached in a church in Chisinau on Palm Sunday. I was able to discuss current needs with a number of people. Clearly basic food and other aid and medical equipment is still urgently needed, but much is already being done to meet this need. Beyond this there is longer-term need to help with programmes of church and community reconstruction.

There is a need for reconciliation in a situation where nationality, religion and culture are closely intertwined. Those countries that are keen to offer the hand of friendship to Romania are right in urging the interim Government — and the Government that will be elected in May — to ensure that ethnic violence and intimidation of political parties are ended. It is to be hoped that the misunderstandings of the past can be forgotten and a new era of reconciliation begin.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN JOHANSEN-BERG,
Barnes Close,
Chadwell Manor Estate,
Nr Bromsgrove, Worcestershire,
May 14.

Cardinal's successor

From Mr R. M. Purcell

Sir, Your Irish Affairs Correspondent is on very doubtful ground in suggesting (report, May 10) that the Irish Prime Minister is likely to have "a strong say" in the matter of the succession to Cardinal O'Fiaich as Archbishop of Armagh and Catholic Primate of All Ireland. Vatican sources confirm that it would be most unusual for the Irish Prime Minister (or any other prime minister in such circumstances) to have anything like the kind of influence which this phrase implies.

The Papal Nuncio in Dublin may, of course, consult whom he wishes, including Mr Haughey, but there could be no question of Mr Haughey's exercising any special influence over the Nuncio's recommendations. The Nuncio will be well aware that the character and outlook of the Irish Primate can powerfully spur or retard Cardinal O'Fiaich's dream of orderly and democratic progression towards the unity of Ireland.

Incidentally nuncios around the world submit recommendations for bishops through the Congregation of Bishops in Rome to the Pope. The choice is the Pope's alone.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PURCELL,
(Head of Chancery, HM Legation to the Holy See, 1973-76),
French Mill Cottage,
Shaftesbury, Dorset,
May 10.

Cycle lanes that fail to please

From Mr T. Piercy

Sir, I hope that the cycle lanes planned for London (report, May 8) have more success than those built recently around Bristol. These were originally built for pedestrians, with facilities for cyclists added as an afterthought; thus the surface has been laid to pavement standards, which is very rough for bicycles to use. Later lanes are built to a better standard, except where they are just widened pavements.

Lampposts and road-signs obstruct the lanes, which are treated like pavements by the footpath-highway department. Thus, piles of wood chippings and unfinished man-hole trenches block the tracks for weeks on end.

Where the lanes cross roads, no facilities are provided to help in crossing the road. Thus, when traffic is heavy, the crossing is blocked by queuing cars; when it is less heavy, the speed of the vehicles makes crossing dangerous.

The cyclist is left to decide whether the added risk of hitting fixed objects or pedestrians, the time wasted waiting to cross roads and the increased damage both to the bike and the rider from the poorly-built and maintained cycle lane more than offsets the reduced risk of being hit by another vehicle.

The majority of cyclists continue to use the roads, rather than the cycleways, which seems a bit of a waste. There is also another hazard: motorists, seemingly incensed by cyclists still using their roads when cycle lanes have been built, who take great pleasure in trying to force them off "their" roads.

Yours sincerely,
T. PIERCEY,
59 Downland Road,
Fishponds, Bristol, Avon.

From Mr Ronald Osborne

Sir, As a resident of Isleworth until 1977 I am reminded by Mr A. C. Scales's letter (May 4) that the local cycle paths were then frequently used for parking by residents, making progress somewhat tricky; presumably this is still the case. On one occasion I unwittingly rode over a pair of legs protruding from beneath one of these parked vehicles, much to my, and the owner's, surprise.

I wish Mr Scales much joy from his cycling, both at home and abroad, for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD OSBORNE,
5 Harebell Close,
Harley Winney,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

From Mr J. Peter Morris

Sir, We do not need proposals for a network of 1,000 miles of cycle lanes in London. In this part of the capital city the lanes already exist and are intensively used. They were formerly called pavements and footpaths.

Yours etc.,
J. P. MORRIS,
88 Ridgmont Gardens, WCI,
May 8.

'Mad cow' disease

From Miss Anne Goyder

Sir, A Smithfield worker interviewed on radio this week about "mad cow" disease summed up the problem succinctly. "They should never have fed them meat", he said. We, the baffled consumers, have discovered that this practice has gone on for years, but clearly the laws of nature can no longer be flouted with impunity.

Let us stop this unethical and pernicious practice (which is also one of the causes of salmonella in eggs) and feed our cattle on vegetarian products only (as do the French farmers — hence their healthy stock). Let us stop pretending we can reverse and rule the natural order of creation and reclaim the humility, the humanity and the common sense to live in harmony with it.

Yours faithfully,
A. B. GOYDER,
Gate Cottage,
Hamptons Norreys,
Newbury, Berkshire,
May 17.

Supply of teachers

From Dr Richard Aldrich

Sir, The recommendation of the Education, Science and Arts Committee of the House of Commons in its report, "The supply of teachers for the 1990s", that the Government should establish a "general teaching council" is welcome news indeed (report, May 10). There is widespread support for such a body, amongst parents, employers, teachers' associations and teachers themselves. Indeed a recent survey of 1,200 teachers by the College of Preceptors showed that 94 per cent were in favour of a GTC.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALDRICH
(Chairman, GTC sub-committee),
The College of Preceptors,
Publications Department,
44/45 Museum Street, WC1.

Knowing one's place

From Miss Cherry Lavell

Sir, Whatever happened to "moving"? Why do we all have to "relocate" these days?

Yours etc.,
CHERRY LAVELL,
24 Fitzroy Road, NW1,
May 14.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR
AND MART HARGREAVE
CRITIC'S CHOICE PETER WAYMARK

BBC 1

6.45 Open University
6.55 Playdays (9.15 Making Sense... of Suffering) (r)
9.30 This is the Day. A simple religious service from Skellig Michael, a rocky outcrop off the south-west coast of Ireland.
10.00 Gazebo (r) 10.25 Take Nobody's Word for It. Science magazine (r) 10.50 Business Matters: Picking up the Pieces. How owners of failed small businesses can set about recovering from the experience of losing job, money and maybe even home in one go (r)
11.15 Women Mean Business (r). (CeeFax) 11.40 Step Up to Wordpower. Reading and writing help for adults. (CeeFax). Wales: The Flying Doctors
12.05 Sign Extra. An edition of GED, the House That Bob Built, adapted for the hearing impaired
12.30 Country File. As part of One World week, Country File has mounted a special exhibition of environmental photographs. Followed by Weather. Wales: 12.25 Farming in Wales
1.00 News with Chris Low. Followed by: On the Record. Jonathan Dimbleby examines Labour's alternative to the Poll Tax. Emily Buchanan looks at who would win and who would be the loser in the proposed roof tax
2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (CeeFax)
3.00 Film: A Distant Trumpet (1964). Troy Donahue romances the women and fights the Indians down Mexico way. Classic western stuff, and a tame and to the distinguished cast of its veteran director, Raoul Walsh. With Suzanne Pleshette (CeeFax)
4.50 All Our Children. A worldwide look at early days at school for youngsters in very different circumstances. (CeeFax)
5.40 The World in Our Hands. The Earth is one but the world is not, said the

Brundage report on the environment and development. But where do you start to look at the world? Michael Buerk decided to talk to astronauts, whose angel-eye view gives them the chance to see the whole picture, but who notice pollution even up there. Strong stuff, due to the sad fact that much of the world is still desperately complacent. (CeeFax)
6.25 News with Chris Low. Weather
6.40 Praise Bel with Pope John Paul II's special One World message, and Group Captain Leonard Cheshire talking to Thom Hird. (CeeFax)
7.15 All Creatures Great and Small. Delightful series based on the James Herriot novels about a veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire (r). (CeeFax)
8.05 Film: The March (1990)
Having treated us to strong dramas about AIDS, C. S. Lewis and the invention of DNA, William Nicholson turns his attention to the starving millions of Africa. He imagines that in the near future a charismatic African Gandhi emerges in the Sudan and leads his people in a great march to Europe to shame the First World industrial revolution. Nicholson calls *The March* a "what-if" film, a plausible scenario designed as a thought-provoking introduction to the week of BBC programmes under the *One World* banner. The latter-day Gandhi (played by Melick Bowers from the Peter Brook makes the film) is a pragmatic European Community commissioner (Juliet Stevenson). She finds herself as a reluctant pig in the middle as her EC colleagues line up against her. Although Nicholson tries to give the piece an intellectual dimension, supplying Stevenson with a neglected husband and senile mother, essentially this is a dramatized debate in which all the points of view are carefully represented and systematically argued



Gandhi of Africa: Melick Bowers (8.05pm)

9.40 That's Life! Consumer affairs
10.25 News with Martin Lewis
10.40 Evergreen with the March Go On? This week's edition provides a necessary coda to the night by addressing the issues raised in the screening of *The March* earlier this evening. Could northern Africa be a more stable place in 40 years' time? And, if so, will Europe open its borders, as it grudgingly does on a much smaller scale at present? Northern Ireland: Football (CeeFax) (Daneal)
11.20 Women Mean Business. The fifth in the series sees Glenda Jackson looking into attitudes towards women at work, and at how little is being done to orient the workplace to their needs. (CeeFax). Wales: 11.15 Welsh Labour Party Conference. Northern Ireland: 11.30 News
11.45 Mahabharat. Episode six of the 91-part Indian epic poem (r). Wales: Women Mean Business 12.10am
12.25am News. Wales 12.50; Northern Ireland 12.10am

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
8.00 Anne Diamond on Sunday. The guests include Judge Pickles, Lady Harlech and Alister Spark
9.25 Film: The Wild Country (1970). Part one of a Disney adventure about a family trying to make a living farming in 1860s Wyoming. Directed by Robert Totten
10.15 The Campbells. Canadian adventures of a pioneering Scottish family
10.45 Link investigates the lack of facilities in Scotland for the rehabilitation of head injury sufferers
11.00 Morning Worship from the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Clifton, Nottingham
12.00 News. Topical religious magazine
12.30 My Pet Monster. Animated adventures 12.40 Police 5.12.55 LWT
1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
1.10 Eyewitness includes an interview with President Mengistu of Ethiopia
2.00 McCloud. The second of a two-part story in which the detective investigates a Middle East prostitution ring. Starting Tuesday 12.55
3.00 Film: Follow Me, Boy! (1965) starring Fred MacMurray, Vera Miles and Lili Gish. Sentimental to the point of nausea tale of a musician who hangs up his saxophone and becomes a small town school leader - all for the love of a lady. Directed by Norman Tokar
5.25 Cartoon Time
5.30 Bullseye
6.00 Brave New Wilderness. Series on how old industrial land has been reclaimed by nature
6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

6.35 LWT News and weather
6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Lyme Regis in Dorset
7.15 People Do the Funniest Things presented by the unloved Jeremy Beadle (r)
7.45 Perfect Scoundrels. Patchy comedy drama series starring Peter Bowles and Bryan Murray as two conmen in an uneasy alliance
8.45 Jeopardy and Wooster. Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie excel in this superb adaptation by Clive Exton of the P. G. Wodehouse stories about an oddball man of letters and his superior gentleman's gentleman. (Oracle)
9.45 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
10.00 LWT Weather
10.05 Splitting Image. The latest puppets with more sketchy satire
10.35 International Heavyweight Boxing from the City Hall, Sheffield. Jim Rosenthal introduces coverage of the fight between Britain's unbeaten Olympic champion Lennox Lewis and Dan Murphy from Omaha, Nebraska
11.05 Celebration: The Gingerbread Revolution
A fascinating documentary, covering on several levels of fact and fiction, which explores the role of actors, artists and writers in the 1989 revolution in Czechoslovakia. The starting point is a film being shot in Prague about the Nazi cover-up of an anti-Nazi camp in Czechoslovakia during the Second World War. With a cast including the British actors Tom Courtenay and Freddie Jones, it is being made without the approval of the censors. One of the Czech cast, Josef Kemr, sees the police suppression of a student demonstration in Prague and joins his fellow actors in a nationwide theatre strike which helps to ignite the revolution and topple the government. The *Gingerbread Revolution* includes news film of the events of 1989, Courtenay's fine performance as a mime artist and footage from the Nazi death camp
12.05am Golf. The Nestle International 1.05am Golf. The sitcom with multiple siss and hilarious com (r)
1.35 Whitehead Round the World Yacht Race. The final stages
1.45 The TV Chart Show (r)
2.45 Film: The Last Married Couple in America (1980) starring George Segal and Natalie Wood. Silly, smutty sex comedy about a happily married couple who begin to doubt their own wedded bliss when their married friends break away from their spouses. Directed by Gilbert Cates
4.30 Pick of the Week. The best from the regions
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00



Power of mime: Tom Courtenay (11.05pm)

news was that the peaceful, attractive town of Valdez found itself taken over and swamped by an influx of clean-up workers lured by a fast buck. They in turn attracted angry rows of tents, fast food stalls and souvenir shops. Almost the saddest joke played on the good people of Valdez was a video game in which the player was invited to do better than the captain of the tanker and steer the vessel to safety. The Media Show. Emma Freud discovers the culture of the Japanese media - from its daily newspapers with double circulation of *The Sun* to the world's largest advertising agency. The Manageress. Cherie Lunghi stars as the tough manageress of a television football team. Gabriela realises she has made a costly error by lying to herself and allowing a player to compromise her authority. (Oracle)
10.00 Film: National Lampoon's Animal House (1978). John Belushi and Donald Sutherland star in the riotous college comedy set on an American campus during the free-spirited 1960s. A crazy gang tries to outwit the elegant elite, creating some hilarious adventures. Outrageous and often rude, directed by John (Trading Places) Lands
12.10am Film: Baara (1978). Mali film starring Balla Moussa Keita and Baba Niare. A look at the problems Africa faced as it began its industrial revolution. An engineer who encouraged union activity is found murdered in a local factory and the mystery surrounding his death is cleverly revealed. African city life and the world of work. With English subtitles. Directed by Souleymane Cisse. Ends at 1.50

BBC 2

6.35 Open University: Maths. Shrinking Polygons 7.00 Structuring Decisions
7.25 King Frederick and Voltaire
7.50 Einstein's Theory 8.15 Living Choices: Changing Places 8.40 Emperor Augustus: Portrait and Image
9.05 Given Enough Rope 9.30 Notions of Politics 9.55 Arts: Crime and Punishment 10.20 Biology: Cell Movement 10.45 Maths: Curves Sketching 11.10 Words to That Effect 11.35 Equilibrium Rules OK?
12.00 Westminster Week. Christopher Jones presents highlights of the week in Westminster. (CeeFax) 12.35 Around Westminster with Sue MacGregor
1.00 So You Want To Be a Better Manager. Open University film for managers at all levels
1.25 One in Four. Magazine series about disabled matters
1.55 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 2.00 Tennis: live coverage of the Wimbledon women's singles final; 2.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 2.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 2.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 3.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 3.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 3.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 3.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 4.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 4.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 4.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 4.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 5.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 5.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 5.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 5.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 6.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 6.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 6.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 6.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 7.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 7.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 7.30 Wimbledon women's doubles final; 7.45 Wimbledon men's doubles final; 8.00 Wimbledon women's singles final; 8.15 Wimbledon men's singles final; 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Boeing 737s checked after control wheel breaks off

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

BOEING, which includes British Airways as one of its largest customers, has been carrying out a 72-hour inspection of three newer models of its popular 737 aircraft after a missing pin caused a control wheel to come off in the hands of a co-pilot flying for a West German airline.

The incident was on board a West German 737-400 - the same type of aircraft that crashed on the M1 at Kegworth. The US regulatory

De Klerk's vision of the future

By Michael Knipe
Diplomatic Correspondent

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa spelled out his vision of a post-apartheid South Africa yesterday at a series of meetings with senior British financial, political and media figures at the South African embassy in London.

Mr de Klerk, who is visiting Chequers today for discussions with Mrs Thatcher, is promoting the view that sanctions are yesterday's issue and attempting to focus attention on South Africa's importance as a potential powerhouse of economic development in Southern Africa as a whole.

It is a view with which Mrs Thatcher is much in sympathy. With them at Chequers will be Mr P. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

They are likely to discuss the importance of promoting renewed foreign investment in South Africa after the years of economic isolation.

The British government strongly supports President de Klerk's reform programme and is particularly interested in Pretoria's efforts to harness the private sector, both nationally and internationally.

Gateshead festival becomes a garden of hope



A LINDISFARNE monk, part of the Durham County Council contribution to the National Garden Festival in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, receiving a final touch of paint. The festival, opened by the Princess Royal yesterday, brought hope of new life for the 200-acre site (Adam Ffresco writes).

The £60 million festival has given jobs to more than 2,000 and has secured commitments for rejuvenating the once desolate area. The land has been reclaimed from derelict workings and railway sidings and when the festival ends in October it will be used for housing, commercial development and parkland. The festival is based along one mile of the Tyne; highlights include a celebrity cricket match, power-boat grand prix, Chinese dragon boat racing, fireworks, music and art.

Opening the 157-day festival the Princess Royal, its patron, said: "During my last visit I saw the bare bones of the site, which was fascinating in its way, but this is quite a revelation. It is worth remembering what nature can do with a little help from man in improving what was just a man-made vista before."

The first garden festival was held in Liverpool in 1984 and was built on a former rubbish tip; it attracted more than three million visitors. The Merseyside Development Corporation adopted the idea from festivals abroad and made it a big success. Once the festival ended houses were built on 80 acres of the 125-acre site with the rest being left as parkland, already developed by the festival.

The Glasgow Garden Festival, which took place throughout the summer of 1988, was regarded as the most successful, attracting a record 4.25 million visitors. The five-month festival cost £42 million to stage on the southern bank of the River Clyde; in spite of bad weather it managed to inject £100 million into the Scottish economy. Since the event, however, the site has largely lain waste after the clearing operation.

A retail and leisure park that created hundreds of jobs now stands on the site of the 1986 garden festival in the centre of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The site was cleared for the festival four years ago and included a canalised marina. After the festival the council leased the site to a property company, which developed the retail and leisure park.

Art lover's £94 million spending spree

Continued from page 1

he said matter-of-factly. "That's for my garden."

NEW YORK: The sale of the Renoir came as an anticlimax at Sotheby's New York on Thursday night (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Like compulsive gamblers, the crowd wanted to repeat that heady moment on Tuesday when Van Gogh's "Dr Gachet" smashed the world record to clapping, gasps and roars of approval.

At first, it appeared that the auctioneer, Mr John Marion,

was conducting bids between a telephone candidate and the chandelier. He looked emphatically at a colleague to his right, receiving bids by telephone, and then looked somewhat vaguely into the near distance. The massed ranks of the world's press craned forward from their pen at the side in the hope of glimpsing Mr Kobayashi.

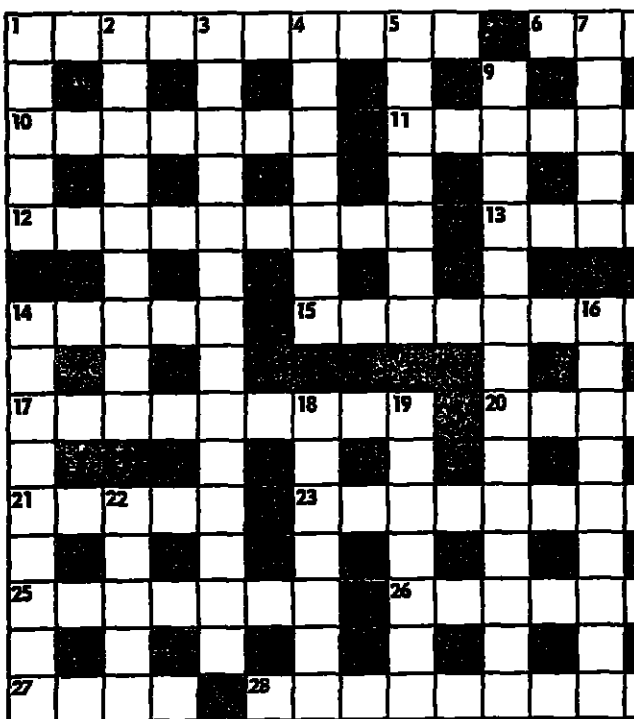
They remembered that as he had struggled past the crowd to his limousine on Park Avenue on Tuesday night, he had pledged to return. But on Thursday there was no apparent movement in the massive hall.

At \$30 million another telephone bidder joined in, communicating through one of Sotheby's bevy of young glamorous experts. Then at \$41 million, a further telephone operator stirred. From then on, the going was less like the Grand National than a game of ping pong across the rostrum, with Mr Marion the referee.

The transaction was soon over, the gavel coming down at \$71 million. With Sotheby's 10 per cent premium, this makes the final price \$78.1 million. Not a bad profit for Mrs Betsy Cushing Whitney, the widow of the financier and publisher Mr John Hay Whitney, who bought it for \$165,000 in 1929.

Despite Sotheby's euphoria, last week's results had their share of disasters. One third of Christie's Impressionist watercolours and drawings failed to sell, while 65 out of their 119 secondary Impressionists had the same fate.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,298



- ACROSS
- 1 Not properly covered, food liable to go off (10)
 - 6 Pockets large sums (4)
 - 10 Means of carrying small volumes by tube (7)
 - 11 Sour name for one producing a boom (7)
 - 12 Composer of three Roman fantasies (9)
 - 13 Gold sovereign (5)
 - 14 Squat conqueror's attitude? (5)
 - 15 Firm with insurance to protect the more expensive work (4,5)
 - 16 Bloomer is happy, given acceptable soil mixture (9)
 - 20 Constitutional in castle gallery (5)
 - 21 First capital gains tax, of course (5)
 - 23 Preparing joint, perhaps, for beef entree (9)
 - 25 He made a bit in forge or in ship (7)
 - 26 Fit to drink, say River Board (7)
 - 27 Castle in the air? (4)
- Concise crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 18,292

ACROSS
1. DRAINAGE
6. POUCHES
10. TUBES
11. BOOMERS
12. COMPOSER
13. SOVEREIGN
14. SQUAT
15. FIRM
16. BLOOMER
20. CASTLE
21. FIRST
23. JOINT
25. FORGE
26. FIT
27. CASTLE

DOWN
2. CONTINGENT
3. PALLADIUM
4. BRILLIANT
5. JACKSON
7. SMOEL
8. NEAPOLITAN
9. SQUARE
17. MAID
18. PACKED
19. WAS
22. MASQUE
24. ALLOW

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

DIRIMENT
a. Nullifying
b. Loss by seepage
c. A description

RYBAT
a. A fruit bat
b. A dressed stone
c. Rowing, treading-point

HANESPOOT
a. A kind of grape
b. Anglo-Saxon law court
c. A chimney pot

JUMP-ROPE
a. Skipping
b. The boom yard
c. A towing rope

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London..... 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex..... 702
Dorset, Dorset & IOW..... 703
Devon & Cornwall..... 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset..... 705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford..... 706
Northants, Leics, Lincs..... 707
North York, Suffolk, Cambs..... 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent..... 709
Shropshire, Hereford & Wores..... 710
N.E. England..... 711
East Midlands..... 712
Lincoln & Humberside..... 713
Dyfed & Powys..... 714
Wales & Chwyd..... 715
N.W. England..... 716
W & S Yorks & Dales..... 717
N.E. England..... 718
Lancashire & Lake District..... 719
S.W. Scotland..... 720
W. Central Scotland..... 721
E. Central Scotland..... 722
Glasgow & E. Highlands..... 723
N.W. Scotland..... 724
Cumbria, Merseyside & Lancashire..... 725
N. Ireland..... 726
Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles)..... 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1..... 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T..... 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25..... 734
M-ways/roads M25-M2..... 735
M25 London Orbital only..... 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways..... 737
West Country..... 738
Wales..... 739
Midlands..... 740
East Anglia..... 741
North-west England..... 742
North-east England..... 743
Scotland..... 744
Northern Ireland..... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

Much of Britain will be dry with some sunny spells. The best of the sunshine will be in the north-west, more especially over Northern Ireland and western Scotland, while eastern coastal counties will be mostly cloudy but will remain dry. South-west England and south Wales will also be rather cloudy and there will be some showers with the chance of thunder. Outlook: cloudy with showers; rather cool.

ABROAD

Algeria	23	84	Emouth	10.0	-	17	63	sunny
Amman	22	72	Telmeimoun	X	-	16	61	sunny
Algiers	26	79	Targuia	14.0	-	19	63	sunny
Antwerp	24	75	Fethouch	8.5	-	15	69	sunny
Athens	27	81	Panzenze	8.7	-	17	63	sunny
Bahia	34	93	Scilly Isles	9.4	-	16	61	sunny
Barcelona	27	81	Guernsey	9.6	-	16	61	sunny
Belgrade	25	77	St. Ives	9.1	-	14	57	sunny
Bombay	34	93	Newbury	11.2	-	17	63	sunny
Buenos Aires	19	66	Swanton	8.5	-	16	61	sunny
Calcutta	34	93	Minneapolis	14.5	-	18	64	sunny
Cairo	34	93	Blackpool	10.0	0.01	15	59	cloudy
Cape Town	27	81	Morone	10.0	0.01	15	59	cloudy
Chicago	27	81	Douglas	0.8	0.03	13	55	cloudy
Cincinnati	27	81	Aspinna	10.0	-	16	61	sunny
Cologne	27	81	Birmingham	10.3	-	20	68	sunny
Copenhagen	21	70	Bristol	11.0	-	21	70	sunny
Dublin	20	68	Buxton	16.0	0.0	12	54	cloudy
Edinburgh	20	68	Leeds	0.1	-	12	54	cloudy
Faro	13	56	Newcastle	9.9	0.09	11	52	rain
Geneva	8	48	Nottingham	10.0	-	15	59	cloudy
Helsinki	23	73	Cardiff	12.2	-	19	66	sunny
Hong Kong	21	70	Cardiff Bay	8.7	-	17	63	sunny
Istanbul	42	108	Tenby	8.7	-	18	64	sunny
Jeddah	21	70	Aberdeen	1.0	-	10	50	cloudy
Jerusalem	22	72	Amnion	2.1	-	10	50	cloudy
Karachi	12	54	Amnion	2.1	-	12	54	cloudy
La Paz	25	77	Eskdalemuir	1.0	-	11	58	cloudy
Lebanon	14	57	Kilbuck	2.3	-	09	48	cloud
Lima	20	68	Lerwick	-	0.01	8	46	cloud
Lisbon	8	48	London	-	0.07	15	59	cloudy
Los Angeles	22	72	Stowmorey	6.3	-	11	52	sunny
Luzern	20	68	Threave	0.7	-	17	63	sunny
Madrid	20	68	Wick	2.2	-	9	48	cloud
Manchester	23	84	Seafast	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Mexico	21	70						
Moscow	16	61						
Mumbai	34	93						
Nairobi	22	72						
Paris	24	75						
Peking	27	81						
Rangoon	27	81						
Rio de Janeiro	27	81						
Rome	27	81						
Salt Lake City	27	81						
Sao Paulo	27	81						
Seoul	27	81						
Shanghai	27	81						
Singapore	27	81						
Sofia	27	81						
Taipei	27	81						
Tel Aviv	27	81						
Tokyo	27	81						
Toronto	27	81						
Tripoli	27	81						
Ulaanbaatar	27	81						
Washington	27	81						
Wellington	27	81						
Yokohama	27	81						

C

F

Belfast

15

59

St. Ives

12

54

Blackpool

13

56

Blackpool

13

56

Cardiff

17

63

Edinburgh

11

52

Glasgow

18

55

C

F

Guernsey

11

55

Jersey

14

57

Manchester

11

52

Newcastle

9

48

Widnes

9

48

Thursday's figures are latest available.

Monday

at midday

at yesterday

T, cloud; F, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

GLASGOW

Thursday: Temp: max 8 to 10, 14C (57F); min 6 to 8, 43F (50F). Wind: 24 to 28, 14 to 18 mph. Sun: 24 to 28, 14 to 18 mph.

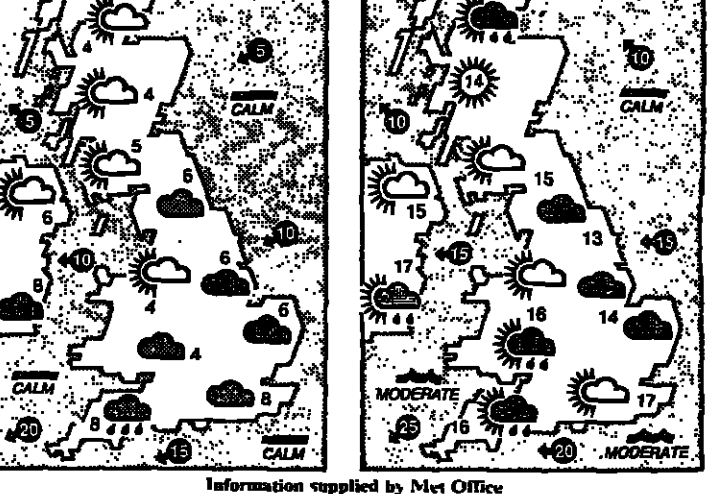
POLLEN COUNT

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 am yesterday was 9 (low). Forecast for today, low. For the most accurate pollen count, contact the Asthma Research Council at 0998 500429 (updated at midday).

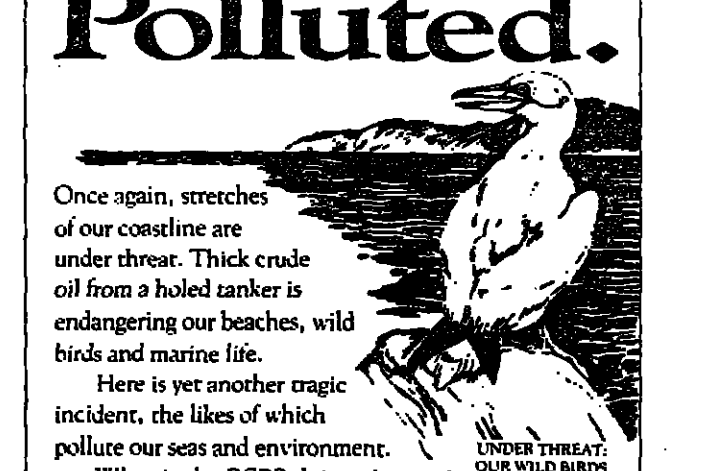
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	PM	TOMORROW	AM	PM
London Bridge	10.41	6.11	London Bridge	10.41	6.11
Aberdeen	10.41	6.11	Aberdeen	10.41	6.11
Amman	10.41	6.11	Amman	10.41	6.11
Antwerp	10.41	6.11	Antwerp	10.41	6.11
Bahia	10.41	6.11	Bahia	10.41	6.11
Barcelona	10.41	6.11	Barcelona	10.41	6.11
Belgrade	10.41	6.11	Belgrade	10.41	6.11
Bombay	10.41	6.11	Bombay	10.41	6.11
Buenos Aires	10.41	6.11	Buenos Aires	10.41	6.11
Calcutta	10.41	6.11	Calcutta	10.41	6.11
Cairo	10.41	6.11	Cairo	10.41	6.11
Cape Town	10.41	6.11	Cape Town	10.41	6.11
Chicago	10.41	6.11	Chicago	10.41	6.11
Cincinnati	10.41	6.11	Cincinnati	10.41	6.11
Cologne	10.41	6.11	Cologne	10.41	6.11
Copenhagen	10.41	6.11	Copenhagen	10.41	6.11
Dublin	10.41	6.11	Dublin	10.41	6.11
Edinburgh	10.41	6.11	Edinburgh	10.41	6.11
Faro	10.41	6.11	Faro	10.41	6.11
Geneva	10.41	6.11	Geneva	10.41	6.11
Helsinki	10.41	6.11	Helsinki	10.41	6.11
Hong Kong	10.41	6.11	Hong Kong	10.41	6.11
Imbabura	10.41	6.11	Imbabura	10.41	6.11
Istanbul	10.41	6.11	Istanbul	10.41	6.11
Jeddah	10.41	6.11	Jeddah	10.41	6.11
Jerusalem	10.41	6.11	Jerusalem	10.41	6.11
Karachi	10.41	6.11	Karachi	10.41	6.11
La Paz	10.41	6.11	La Paz	10.41	6.11
Lebanon	10.41	6.11	Lebanon	10.41	6.11
Lima	10.41	6.11	Lima	10.41	6.11
Lisbon	10.41	6.11	Lisbon	10.41	6.11
London	10.41	6.11	London	10.41	6.11
Los Angeles	10.41	6.11	Los Angeles	10.41	6.11
Luzern	10.41	6.11	Luzern	10.41	6.11
Madrid	10.41	6.11	Madrid	10.41	6.11
Manila	10.41	6.11	Manila	10.41	6.11
Mexico	10.41	6.11	Mexico	10.41	6.11
Moscow	10.41	6.11	Moscow	10.41	6.11
Mumbai	10.41	6.11	Mumbai	10.41	6.11
Nairobi	10.41	6.11	Nairobi	10.41	6.11
Paris	10.41	6.11	Paris	10.41	6.11
Peking	10.41	6.11	Peking	10.41	6.11
Rangoon	10.41	6.11	Rangoon	10.41	6.11
Rio de Janeiro	10.41	6.11	Rio de Janeiro	10.41	6.11
Rome	10.41	6.11	Rome	10.41	6.11
Salt Lake City	10.41	6.11	Salt Lake City	10.41	6.11
Sao Paulo	10.41	6.11	Sao Paulo	10.41	6.11
Seoul	10.41	6.11	Seoul	10.41	6.11
Shanghai	10.41	6.11	Shanghai	10.41	6.11
Singapore	10.41	6.11	Singapore	10.41	6.11
Sofia	10.41	6.11	Sofia	10.41	6.11
Taipei	10.41	6.11	Taipei	10.41	6.11
Tel Aviv	10.41	6.11	Tel Aviv	10.41	6.11
Tokyo	10.41	6.11	Tokyo	10.41	6.11
Toronto	10.41	6.11	Toronto	10.41	6.11
Tripoli	10.41	6.11	Tripoli	10.41	6.11
Ulaanbaatar	10.41	6.11	Ulaanbaatar	10.41	6.11
Washington	10.41	6.11	Washington	10.41	6.11
Wellington	10.41	6.11	Wellington	10.41	6.11
Yokohama	10.41	6.11	Yokohama	10.41	6.11

AM



PM



Polluted.

Once again, stretches of our coastline are under threat. Thick crude oil from a holed tanker is endangering our beaches, wild birds and marine life.

Here is yet another tragic incident, the likes of which pollute our seas and environment.

What are the RSPB doing about it? We are at the forefront in advising government and the oil industry on ways to prevent such disasters.

We monitor the effects of pollution and fight for better laws to protect our environment.

In a disaster like this, we recommend the most appropriate ways of tackling the problem - ways that will have the least impact on our birds and wildlife.

But action costs money. To continue this vital work, we urgently need your help. Please join us today.

RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

IF YOU CARE, THE RSPB WILL ACT

I want to help the RSPB and enclose my 1st year's subscription at £15. Membership covers 2 adults at £15 each. A FREE BIRD TABLE, quarterly Bird's magazine and free entry to over 100 RSPB nature reserves. (OAF rate £10 including free gift.)

I would like to make a special donation of £1. I enclose Cheque/PO payable to RSPB or John Mc. Access/Visa Card No. _____

Total £ _____ (Please attach address of cardholder if different from below.)

Cardholder's signature _____ A177

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____ Initials _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

C+Member Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____ Initials _____

Send to: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL. Reg Charity 207076

hope

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6900 (-0.0010)
W German mark
2.7870 (+0.0020)
Exchange index
88.2 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1793.3 (-2.4)
FT-SE 100
2269.1 (-15.3)
USM (Datastream)
n/a
Market report, page 20

Shares in 50-point collapse

THE FT-SE 100 index saw a turnaround of more than 50 points as euphoria over the Chancellor's remarks on full sterling participation in the European Monetary System collapsed. By the close, the index was 15.3 points down at 2,269.1 after climbing 37 points before 9am.

The pound, though underpinned by the prospect of UK interest rates staying high for the foreseeable future, and helped by the softer mark, was unable to match Thursday's 0.7 point surge on its trade-weighted index. It stood at 88.2 at the close, only 0.1 above the previous close.

Kenneth Fleet, page 19

Conder plunges

Shares in Conder Group, the steel cladding group, slumped from 61p to 34p after Mr Christopher Stewart-Smith, chairman, told shareholders profits this year would be significantly lower.

Market report, page 20

STOCK MARKETS

New York:	2818.06 (-13.69)
Dow Jones:	2818.06 (-13.69)
Nikkei Average:	32013.72 (-47.88)
Hong Kong:	2925.89 (+8.28)
Amsterdam:	1193.1 (-0.8)
OSSE Tendency:	1478.1 (-3.5)
Sydney:	1843.59 (+2.01)
Frankfurt DAX:	6180.05 (-3.45)
Paris:	556.62 (+8.47)
Zurich:	625.3 (-2.3)
London:	
FT-A-Share:	n/a
FT-100:	2269.1 (-15.3)
FT Gold Mines:	207.1 (-10.0)
FT Fixed Interest:	87.27 (+0.24)
FT Govt Secs:	78.74 (+0.25)
Recent Issues:	Page 20
4pm prices:	Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Schroders:	737p (+10p)
Laporte:	523p (+10p)
Wolstenholme Rink:	505p (+12p)
Atwoods:	451p (+19p)
Berkley:	170p (+8p)
Gibbs & Dandy:	150p (+10p)
Dunhill:	375p (+9p)
Barclay's WA 'A':	375p (+9p)
Compass Group:	338p (+11p)
Wace:	328p (+11p)
FALLS:	
Fosco:	245p (-8p)
Rank Org:	780p (-10p)
Thomson Corp:	895p (-10p)
GUS 'A':	982p (-28p)
Borland:	964p (-47p)
Burman:	638p (-10p)
British Land:	327p (-11p)
Priest Marples:	250p (-10p)
4pm prices:	3912p
SEAQ Volume:	694.8m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank: 15.50%
3-month bill: 14.12%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 8.12%
3-month Treasury Bill: 7.74-7.75%
30-year bonds: 100%
30-year bonds: 100%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$:	1.6910
£/DM:	2.7870
£/Sfr:	2.2040
£/Yen:	163.50
£/A\$:	0.8125
£/NZ\$:	1.2500
£/Ecu:	1.3637

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$369.70 pm-\$369.90
OCEAN \$369.50-370.00 (2218.50-219.00)
New York:
Comex \$369.80-370.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul): \$17.75 bbl
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	2.19	
Austria Sch	13.55	13.25	
Belgium F	2.06	1.98	
Denmark Kr	11.19	10.48	
Finland Mk	6.91	6.51	
France FF	9.82	9.22	
Germany DM	2.37	2.27	
Greece Dr	13.81	12.91	
Hong Kong \$	1.085	1.025	
Ireland P	2.73	2.57	
Italy Lit	213	207	
Japan Yen	3.26	3.09	
Netherlands Gld	11.37	10.87	
Norway Kr	11.37	10.87	
Portugal Esc	5.45	4.85	
South Africa Rd	161.50	153.50	
Spain Ptas	161.50	153.50	
Sweden Kr	2.49	2.33	
Switzerland Fr	4.50	4.10	
Turkey Lira	1.73	1.57	
USA \$	2.35	2.19	
Yugoslavia Dnr	24.50	22.50	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Japanese halt exports of steel to USSR

By Joe Joseph, Tokyo, and Derek Harris, London

FOUR Japanese companies have decided to halt exports of steel pipes and machinery to Moscow because of late payments of about \$100 million.

The reaction comes in the wake of European companies experiencing similar problems over payment from Russia, and is a fresh blow to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's struggle to modernize Soviet industry.

The arrears to the four steel companies are part of a mounting tally of late payments to several Japanese firms totalling about \$250 million, according to sources at Japan's big trading companies.

The problem is seen by some as one of the growing pains of perestroika, as decision-making moves away from central purchasing organizations to local enterprise.

But with Japan now Russia's third biggest trading partner after West Germany and Finland, a move by other Japanese companies to follow suit could badly jolt the Soviet economy.

This is the first time the Soviet Union has fallen behind in payments to Japanese companies, although many European exporters are also complaining about late settlements from the Soviet Union. Its total arrears to western companies are now put as high as \$1 billion.

Steel interests in Europe are among those known to have been having trouble with tardy Soviet payments. So it may be only a matter of time before European steel suppliers deny more shipments to Russia.

Earlier this week Lord Trefgarne, the British Trade Minister, reported on complaints raised by a dozen

British companies which had been discussed with the Soviet authorities. Moscow was working to put the problem right and some payments were now coming through, said Lord Trefgarne.

So far, the British authorities have been accepting suggestions that the problems have been largely administrative in origin. Central Soviet authorities had devolved hitherto centralized responsibility for foreign trade to various new groupings in the Soviet Union, including companies.

What is not clear at the moment is if some or all of these are merely learning the ropes or whether they are so short of hard currency that they cannot, at any rate for the time being, pay for goods and services in good time.

Japan's big trading companies, which dominate the \$6 billion annual bilateral trade between Tokyo and Moscow, are now threatening to join in suspending shipments to the Soviet Union unless payment is forthcoming.

Payments by the Soviet Union began falling behind schedule last October, when Soviet corporations began asking Japanese trading companies for extensions in paying for imports of chemical products, steel and other goods. Last month, frustrated Japanese trading companies filed details of their trading losses with Japan's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI) in order to claim trade insurance.

MITI has not yet approached Moscow directly to unravel the depths of the problem, but officials have apparently begun to sound out Western trading partners on their experiences. Japan is also hoping to raise the issue at this July's summit of leading industrial nations in Houston, Texas. MITI has doubled its

trade insurance rates in reaction to the rush of claims.

According to Japanese press reports, Soviet officials told Japanese trading companies that payments had been delayed because of a temporary shortage of hard currency.

The officials said that decentralization of trading authority from central ministries to the various public corporations had prompted many of these corporations to increase their imports at the same time.

That led to a currency squeeze and havoc at the Soviet Union's four foreign trade settlement banks.

There is a possibility, analysts say, that with the Soviet Union now billing Eastern Europe for oil in dollars, the situation may improve. But many Japanese trading companies doubt that this is a temporary problem.

They say Moscow's shortage of hard currency is structural and that the problem is getting worse.

Recent research by the United States Central Intelligence Agency, showing that Soviet oil production is falling, has done little to paint a rosier picture, especially if oil prices stay weak.

Japanese exports of steel pipes, plant and machinery to the Soviet Union were already shrinking last year because of Moscow's shortage of hard currency.

Now they are likely to shrink further. The suspensions announced by the four steel firms - Nippon Steel, Kawasaki Steel, NKK, and Sumitomo Metal Industries - total about 130 tons of steel products.

Some pipes and other machinery that already have been loaded ready for shipment are being held back until the Japanese exporters receive letters of guarantee from Moscow.

£1bn Coal bid under fire



Globe in trust: David Hardy under watchful eye of former chairman Lord Pender

Globe hits back with higher asset valuation

By Neil Bennett

GLOBE Investment Trust has hit back at the £1.03 billion hostile bid from British Coal Pension Funds by producing a revised asset value of £225p per share, 34p above the offer.

The new valuation appears in Globe's defence document, entitled "An offer you must refuse." It compares with a value of 204.5p in March. The document gives Globe's figures for the year to end March. Pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £49.8 million, while the final dividend is 4p, up 19 per cent, making a 5.78p total against 4.98p.

Standard accounting of the assets, by contrast, put them at 213p a share, an increase of 3.7 per cent from last year, marginally higher than the FT all-share index.

The new asset value, if accepted by shareholders, puts British Coal's bid in doubt. Globe's shares rose 5p to 196p, against the 191p offer.

Globe has augmented a standard asset valuation of 210p a share from May 11 by including £44 million for its fund management operations, £22.5 million for the benefit of its debenture stock, and £21.5 million for the final dividend.

Presenting Globe's defence, Mr David Hardy, the chairman, said: "This is a thoroughly lousy offer from the Coal Board. It is just nasty short-termism that reflects very badly on the City today."

Mr Malcolm Le May, of BZW, British Coal's adviser, poured scorn on the valuation. "The revision is highly spurious and has a number of elements that are not normally included in net asset valuation," he said.

British Coal published year-end figures from British Investment Trust, which it controls. These show a 5.8 per cent rise in asset value to 766p, more than 2 per cent better than Globe's.

Guerin company in \$4m plea bargain

By Angela Mackay

PARENT Industries, a company wholly-owned by Mr James Guerin, the former deputy chairman of Ferranti International, has pleaded guilty to one charge of racketeering and agreed to pay the US government a fine of \$4.4 million.

The admission of guilt is the first by Mr Guerin, albeit through his personal company. He has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing related to an alleged £215 million fraud uncovered at Ferranti International last year.

The US authorities have been investigating Mr Guerin and the company he founded, International Signal & Control, for more than a year and have alleged he masterminded a \$1 billion defence contract fraud which caused havoc at Ferranti.

The British defence and electronics group, which bought ISC for £460 million at the height of the alleged fraud, is suing Mr Guerin and others to try to recover the funds.

In a plea agreement dated May 15, Parent Industries Inc. promised to pay the government \$2.37 million in cash guaranteed by Mr Guerin's wife, Helen, and forfeit its rights to \$2 million being held in escrow in a pay dispute which the US Justice Department is fighting to keep frozen.

Parent has also promised to cooperate with the US authorities investigating individuals and corporations involved in an inquiry into Ferranti International. ISC and their subsidiaries.

Parent said the government could file specific facts about the guilty plea at a later date.

The *New York Times* newspaper in Lancaster, Pennsylvania - home of ISC - suggested Mr Guerin was also trying to negotiate a plea bargain.

Mr Guerin founded Parent in 1982 as a holding company for businesses unrelated to ISC.

In court this week, Justice Department officials said Parent also served as the depository for 32 million Ferranti shares. When ISC merged with Ferranti in September 1987, Mr Guerin obtained "good" Ferranti stock in return for ISC shares that were artificially inflated by the alleged defence contract fraud, according to evidence by the Internal Revenue Service.

These shares were then transferred to Parent Industries which "obtained financing from numerous financial institutions using the stock as collateral."

Loans ranging from \$500,000 to \$39 million were raised, according to the IRS.

Australians in shake-ups

Elliott steps down as Elders chief

From David Tweed Sydney

THE collapse in the share price of Elders IXL is believed to be behind the early resignation of Mr John Elliott as the company's chief executive. He is to be replaced by Mr Peter Bartels, head of the worldwide brewing group.

Mr Elliott has been trying to straddle the increasingly uncomfortable dual role as chairman of both Elders' ultimate holding company, the debt-laden Hartin Holdings, and as operational manager of Elders itself.

Mr Elliott will remain as a director and chairman of Elders.

His retirement was foreshadowed in *The Times* on March 1 and became inevitable when Elders confirmed a massive restructuring plan a week later, involving the sale of non-core assets and the creation of two single purpose companies - brewing and agribusiness.

The change of chief executive marks a switch of emphasis at Elders.

Mr Elliott is both a politician and a financial engineer, whereas Mr Bartels is more concerned with getting the industrial logic of Elders' brewing interests to work for investors.

Mr Bartels had been due to take over the chief executive

Net assets slide at Charterhall forces meeting

By Our City Staff

THE estimated 1,500 private shareholders in Charterhall, the former British vehicle of Mr Russell Coward, the troubled Australian entrepreneur, have been called to a special meeting on June 13 after a disastrous set of interim figures and hefty write-offs pushed the company's net assets below acceptable levels.

Charterhall, whose shares have been suspended at 9p since late last year, has won a further lifeline from State Bank of New South Wales, its main banker, which has extended its existing facilities and provided additional help until September next year.

The company has debts of about £80 million and is unlikely to be covering interest charges with its trading profits.

Charterhall made an operating loss of £4.3 million, against profits of £6.65 million, in the six months to end December. Exceptional losses totalled £16.36 million, against a gain of £1.92 million. After almost doubled interest payments, the company lost £26.04 million pre-tax, against a profit of £5.76 million last time. It is writing off £47.4 million against the value of its two subsidiaries, Tandem Shoe Holdings and Corah, in the balance sheet. This and the losses would push net assets to well below half the issued share capital of £25.9 million.

M&S plans to treble number of stores in France with £107m expansion

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

MARKS and Spencer, the food and clothing retailer, is to accelerate its penetration into European markets with expansion which in France alone will involve investment amounting to about FF1 billion (£107 million).

In France Marks expects to treble its number of outlets to about 25 over the next five years, said Mr Malcolm Hobbs, managing director for Europe. So far Marks earns 80 per cent of its European revenues in France.

Although Marks has approached Continental markets with caution - it has built a chain of eight stores in France over 15 years - it has also just broken

into the Spanish market with a store in Madrid and is due to open its first Dutch outlet in Amsterdam next year.

Elsewhere in Europe, Marks has so far only a presence in Belgium, with two stores, in Brussels and Antwerp, but is looking to expand there further.

The formula which has so far proved successful in Europe, especially France, is for less emphasis on food than in Britain and more on clothing and other textiles, and homeware.

Spain, with its rapid rate of industrial growth, is seen as a promising market for the Marks style. Early results have already encouraged the group to explore more Spanish opportunities, said M&S. But it is playing down the possibilities of

moving quickly into other European markets, although it has been weighing up the prospects. West Germany may become a prime target since a successful penetration there could blaze a trail into East Germany and Eastern Europe, but currently no projects are planned. Italy is not an imminent prospect either.

Marks has an experimental franchise link with an outlet in Hungary, which carries Marks and Spencer goods but under the local store's own label.

The mainland European operation saw a turnover increase of 22 per cent and a 41 per cent leap in operating profits in the last full year to March. Clothing sales were up 24 per cent and homeware goods rose 17.6 per cent.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Wardle sheds 20 jobs at Bridgend factory

WARDLE Stores, the plastic sheeting and survival equipment manufacturing recovering from a sharp profit downturn earlier in the year, is shedding 20 jobs with immediate effect at its Bridgend factory in South Wales.

The factory employs 85 people and carries out some of the simpler manufacturing operations for the main parachute factory at Blackmill, 10 miles away. More redundancies will follow when it closes in December, although Wardle said it would transfer as many workers as possible to the Blackmill site. Mr Brian Taylor, Wardle Stores' chief executive, said Ministry of Defence business is declining and there is a large over-capacity in this sector of the clothing industry.

Shandwick Trust raises asset value

SHANDWICK, the world's biggest PR consultancy, has acquired TPS Group in London for up to £6 million in cash and shares. TPS made pre-tax profits of £320,000 in the year to end-December. Shandwick will make an initial payment of £2.75 million in cash and shares, with the balance depending on performance.

OVERSEAS Investment Trust lifted pre-tax revenue from £788,000 to £793,000 in the six months to end-March. Eps slip from 1.37p to 1.29p. The interim dividend improved to 0.75p (0.70p). Gross revenue declined to £1.12 million (£1.37 million) while net asset value increased to 277.8p (260.7p).

Red tape delays Young

YOUNG Group, the Tyneside coal miner, says its Aus\$5.5 million (£2.5 million) purchase of a 42.9 per cent stake in Australian Mining Investments, which was to have been completed by May 16, has been delayed by administrative problems in Australia. The required meeting of AMI shareholders will now only take place on May 30, after which a placing of £2 million of Young Group shares will proceed.

IEP Securities, which holds a 17.7 per cent stake in Young Group and is underwriting the placing, has extended its placing agreement, increasing its commission from £10,000 to £50,000. IEP's stake in Young will increase to a minimum of 21.3 per cent and a maximum of 26.9 per cent. It has been granted an option to acquire a further 100,000 Young shares.

Profits from Lendu slump Income up by 42.3%

LENDU Holdings, the Australian sheep farming to Malaysian rubber production company, reports pre-tax profits of £137,000 for the year to end-December (£861,000). The figure includes £430,000 of disposal gains. The dividend is cut to 0.7p (0.9p). Turnover climbed to £546,000. Eps slump from 6.73p to 0.89p.

VALUE and Income Trust, the investment trust, reports a fully diluted net asset value of 75.5p, compared with 74.2p previously. Pre-tax income advanced by 42.3 per cent to £1.96 million in the year to end-March. Eps rise from 2.07p to 3.46p. The final dividend is improved to 1.2p (1.0p), making a total of 2.2p (1.725p) for the year.

Rand Mines warning

RAND Mines, a diversified South African mining house, is holding its interim dividend for the half year to March 31 at 120 cents a share. But it is giving a warning that profit hopes for the year will not be realized and that net earnings could be 20 per cent lower. Rand Mines reported a net attributable profit of R216.3 million (£48.5 million) for the previous year and paid a total dividend of 560 cents on earnings a share of 1.929 cents.

However, the board hopes to hold this year's final dividend should profits fall. The interest charge jumped by 67 per cent to R27 million in the six months and attributable net profit fell from R99.3 million to R98.3 million. Earnings were 727 cents (886 cents).

New group aims for \$1 billion in sales within 18 months

BICC to slim in N America

From Stephen Leather, New York

BICC, the cables and construction group, is planning to rationalize its North American operations which account for 10 per cent of group sales and 19 per cent of operating income.

It is looking at ways of cutting costs following the formation of BICC North America.

Under the new management company — chaired by Mr Harry Schell, who also sits on the main BICC board — are grouped Cable Corporation, the biggest manufacturer of power, control and instrumentation cables in the US, and Phillips Cables of Canada, which BICC has owned for more than 30 years.

Annual sales of BICC North America will be more than \$750 million, with about

3,600 employees and 5 million sq ft of manufacturing space. Mr Schell, aged 54, founded Cable in 1984 after masterminding a \$16 million management buyout of the power cable business of Phelps Dodge Cable and Wire, the group he joined in 1961.

Sales were \$54 million in 1984 and have since grown at an average annual rate of 43 per cent. Sales last year were \$355 million with \$500 million targeted for this year. Cable became a wholly-owned subsidiary of BICC last year.

Mr Schell's success has come from acquiring unprofitable and badly managed companies, slimming them down where necessary and reaching new agreements with the unions. Now that he has been

given authority over Phillips and its 1,300 workers, he is looking closely at cost savings. Job losses will depend on how the business is consolidated.

He said: "If we consolidate one plant, it will be a couple of hundred people, if we consolidate two plants it will be 300."

"We are taking a careful look at North American strategy which will be reviewed with the chief executive, Mr Robin Biggam, when he comes to Canada in August." Mr Schell is determined that sales growth will continue, organically and through acquisitions.

He said: "Our internal target in North America is to break \$1 billion in sales within 18 months and rise to as much as \$1.4 billion by 1993." Last month, BICC guaranteed

a \$250 million five-year revolving credit arrangement with a syndicate of US and international banks.

Mr Schell has earmarked the money to accelerate growth in the North American cable markets.

BICC North America is looking at takeover deals worth some \$500 million at the moment, though not all the takeovers are expected to come to fruition. About half of Mr Schell's time is now spent on looking for acquisitions.

He said: "Our strategy is to be the dominant wire and cable company in North America in the businesses that we serve. We believe we have the best technology by virtue of all the companies we have acquired in the US and Canada. We intend to exploit

BICC's resources worldwide. "In the highly fragmented electronic instrumentation and control-cable industry where there are many competitors, we think the opportunities for acquisitions and growth in market share are excellent."

BICC concentrates on cable business in North America, though in Britain it is equally well known for its Balfour Beatty construction business which has a 10 per cent stake in the Transmanche-Link consortium building the Channel tunnel.

BICC has also joined with Trafalgar House and British Rail to build the high-speed line from London to the Channel tunnel. The author visited the US as a guest of BICC.

Decline in profits at Harding

By Philip Pangalos

THE interim decline at Harding Group, the distributor of electrical, electronic and engineering products, continued as pre-tax profits slipped to £821,000 in the year to end-March, against £1.25 million previously.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, advanced by 33 per cent to £28.4 million. Earnings per share fell from 7.15p to 3.64p, but the final dividend is maintained at 1.65p, making an unchanged total of 2.75p.

Mr Dennis Harding, chairman, said higher interest rates are resulting in lower capital investment in both industry and construction. While these conditions prevail, restoring margins will be difficult.

The group sold its Earthspan concrete floor joint business in January, realizing £5 million in a move to focus on the distribution of industrial products and reduce gearing. Earthspan contributed an operating profit of £715,000 on turnover of £6.09 million. Gearing of 220 per cent at year-end has been eliminated.

There is an extraordinary charge of £124,000, relating to last September's sale of the loss-making heating spares business.

Hornby's model performance



MR JACK STROWER (above), chairman of Hornby Group, the model railway to sports boat company, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that the company could look forward to a continuing strong performance in 1990.

"I am pleased to report that both sectors of the group's business are continuing to do well," he said. "In the case of Hornby Hobbies, orders received, sales, and production are currently significantly ahead of the corresponding period last

year," he said. "The situation for the Fletcher business shows a similar pattern. The relocation to the new factory is progressing well and will provide greatly improved facilities, allowing for future expansion."

B&C was 'told of £160m exposure'

By Angela Mackay

DIRECTORS of Atlantic Computers have informed their administrators that they told the board of British & Commonwealth in April last year about an uncovered exposure in Britain of £160 million.

In a document sent to Price Waterhouse this week, Atlantic directors alleged they told their parent's board, then headed by Mr John Gunn, about the exposure on April 19.

The board then requested a further report from Atlantic, which said a £149.9 million provision needed to be made. The 1989 internal pre-tax profit forecast at the computer company was downgraded from £37.1 million to £24.4 million as a result.

The time lapse between the alleged warning and the action taken — one year — makes it difficult for Mr Gunn to defend his position on the board. He is now chief executive after Sir Peter Thompson assumed the chairmanship this year.

Sources who sighted a copy of the report said the Atlantic directors noted the company's financial state had not changed materially since April last year and said they were at a loss about the reasons for B&C's decision at Easter to appoint administrative receivers. B&C shares are still suspended on the Stock Exchange after the company announced it was writing off its entire £550 million investment in Atlantic and had appointed receivers.

As part of a rescue plan, B&C has promised to sell £750 million of its assets by mid-1991. As well as B&C Merchant Bank, the group is trying to sell Exco International, the money broker.

The deal, which is in the early stages of negotiation, involves a management buyout and the sale of part of the business to a bank.

SG Warburg, B&C's merchant bank, has been canvassing the group's bankers, bond holders and loan stock holders, trying to convince the group's backers to support a complex series of plans, which it hopes to make public this month.

The Directors of Globe Investment Trust PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. The Directors confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Globe Investment Trust PLC accept responsibility accordingly. This advertisement has been issued by Globe Management Limited, a member of IMFO.

"A record year for Globe"

David Hardy, Chairman

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS		
Attributable profits Year ended 31st March, 1990	£34.6m	up 28%
Earnings	6.47p	up 27%
Dividend proposed (including proposed final dividend - 4.0p)	5.78p	up 16%

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The final dividend, if approved, will be paid on 16th August, 1990 to shareholders on the register at 19th July, 1990. The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 25th May 1990 and the Annual General Meeting will be held on 3rd July 1990 at 12.00 noon.

The value of shares can fall as well as rise and past performance is no guide to the future.



To reserve a copy of Globe Investment Trust's 1990 Annual Report & Accounts, please fill in this coupon and send it to Globe Investment Trust P.L.C., FREEPOST, Globe House, 3rd Floor, 4 Temple Place, London WC2R 3HP.

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WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
The World	730.3	-0.3	-13.4	0.0	-8.0
(free)	139.4	-0.3	-13.6	0.1	-8.1
EAFF	1285.6	-0.5	-17.5	-0.3	-12.0
(free)	131.9	-0.5	-17.8	-0.4	-12.3
Europe	743.0	-0.3	-2.3	-0.1	-1.9
(free)	159.7	-0.3	-2.3	-0.4	-2.1
Nth America	509.9	0.0	-5.2	0.0	-0.5
Nordic	1549.3	0.2	-0.5	0.3	1.1
(free)	244.6	0.0	4.0	0.2	5.4
Pacific	2934.6	-0.6	-26.0	-0.4	-17.9
Far East	4261.9	-0.6	-26.4	-0.4	-18.2
Australia	288.1	-0.3	-17.0	-0.2	-9.7
Austria	1794.9	-2.0	20.8	-1.7	23.6
Belgium	911.6	-0.4	-7.4	0.1	-6.9
Canada	505.4	0.1	-15.8	0.3	-10.3
Denmark	1307.9	-0.2	-0.6	0.0	-0.3
Finland	99.1	0.8	-14.1	0.9	-13.1
(free)	145.9	0.1	-2.1	0.1	-1.0
France	829.1	0.1	2.5	0.4	3.1
Germany	932.3	0.3	1.6	0.7	3.9
Hong Kong	2210.0	0.3	-0.4	0.2	0.2
Italy	391.3	0.0	1.5	0.4	1.9
Japan	4491.9	-0.7	-27.2	-0.5	-18.9
Netherlands	877.9	-2.0	-7.2	-1.7	-5.4
New Zealand	86.4	1.6	-18.2	1.6	-8.7
Norway	1589.9	0.4	17.8	0.5	19.9
(free)	275.1	0.5	17.7	0.6	19.9
Sing/Malay	1950.1	1.7	-2.2	1.7	0.0
Spain	222.6	0.1	-6.0	0.0	-7.3
Sweden	1718.9	0.1	-2.0	0.3	-0.1
(free)	248.5	-0.1	2.6	0.1	-0.3
Switzerland	935.2	0.6	2.3	0.7	-2.1
(free)	141.9	0.6	1.7	0.7	-2.7
UK	671.5	-0.8	-6.9	-0.8	-6.9
USA	482.4	0.0	-4.3	0.2	-0.2

(pts) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

THE STOCK WATCH

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
Alld Lyon	420	50	63	73	5
(469)	480	16	38	47	20
ASDA	500	6	1	51	53
(108)	90	21	23	26	1
Bam	100	13	16	20	3
(1013)	110	6	9	14	8
Boots	950	85	117	132	10
(275)	1000	47	85	100	25
Bnt Air	100	21	27	17	12
(210)	200	12	22	27	17
Bnt Com	50	1	1	1	50
(714)	60	1	1	1	55
BP	300	31	39	47	3
(320)	330	11	18	27	13
Bvt Steel	130	18	17	20	2
(144)	140	7	10	14	5
C & W	180	14	3	4	22
(518)	500	35	55	74	14
Cons Union	450	12	30	46	4
(323)	500	11	24	39	31
Countdown	32	11	23	1	23
Crax	350	28	40	52	7
(374)	500	10	21	36	25
Grand Met	500	100	111	1	1
(589)	550	54	71	93	6
ICI	1100	87	112	144	30
(1152)	1150	54	79	115	32
Kingfisher	380	26	32	42	9
(301)	330	2	1	32	41
Ladbrokes	280	28	29	47	5
(320)	330	3	11	34	36
Land Sec	480	35	52	63	10
(214)	180	35	52	63	10
STC	220	45	12	17	15
(260)	240	30	38	49	11
Sainsbury	250	18	28	33	13
(272)	260	16	27	34	8
Shell	420	55	65	81	16
(466)	480	23	33	42	16
Smith Barney	450	72	85	96	7
(552)	500	32	70	10	17
Sovereign	500	11	27	42	38
(109)	100	12	15	19	4
Tesco	120	2	6	9	16
(250)	300	22	38	58	6
Unilever	330	9	20	28	27
(336)	330	25	38	50	16
Unilever	600	33	35	38	33
(675)	650	47	74	91	14
Unid Blue	700	77	102	137	40
(335)	300	47	54	64	2
	360	7	15	25	27
WAA	360	45	52	67	4
(408)	420	14	28	18	23
WAT Ind	550	38	68	88	1
(508)	750	15	12	30	66
WTL	800	62	78	115	120
(417)	800	62	78	115	120
Bvt Aero	300	32	49	55	1
(509)	420	6	27	36	15
Bvt Tele	540	37	45	46	52
(277)	260	17	25	31	1
Century	280	2	12	20	6
(334)	330	6	25	33	4
Galaxie	600	100	120	125	3
(887)	650	50	78	97	1
QEC	700	4	43	85	10
(212)	180	38	40	5	1
Hansen	200	13	21	24	1
(234)	220	33	36	43	17
LASMO	323	72	82	95	15
(401)	367	38	56	65	1
	400	8	32	45	7

May 18, 1990

Total: 48445 Calls 33257 Puts 15188

Underlying security price

FT-SE: Calls 8258 Puts 7764

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
May 8	May 16	August 2	August 13
Call options were taken out on:	18/5/90	Butte Mining, Colcoast, F&I, London & Pute & Caffe, Monarch Resources, F&I.	

Belgian courts give PRB time to finish rescue plan

By Melinda Wittstock

CREDITORS of PRB, the loss-making Belgian munitions maker linked to the Iraqi "supergun" controversy through its connection with Dr Gerald Bull, the murdered arms dealer, have been forced by the Belgian courts to keep the company's credit facilities in place for an extra three weeks.

The courts, which were to rule on whether to grant the company protection from its creditors on May 24, have given PRB until the end of June to put the finishing touches to a rescue plan.

Acquired by Astra Holdings, the troubled British munitions and fireworks company, in a £21.5 million deal last year, the indebted PRB is certain to fall into receivership should the court not rule in favour of PRB's request last month for Chapter 11-style bankruptcy protection. The rescue plan, formulated by

Astra and Société Générale de Belgique, the industrial holding company from which Astra bought PRB, had been held up by the request for "bigger guarantees" by PRB's principal bankers - Générale de Banque and Banque Indosuez Belgique.

But Mr Tony McCann, the chief executive of Astra, which is not putting any money towards the rescue plan, said a "compromise" looks far more likely.

"Its future still hangs in the balance, but at least it's not in receivership yet. The further extension by the court gives cause to think a satisfactory plan to keep PRB alive may be in the offing," he said.

PRB, which employs 1,300 people in five factories, will continue to trade with the help of a "small loan" from La Générale until the court ruling in late June. Astra, which claims it was misled by La

Générale about PRB's future profitability at the time of the deal, dropped plans to sue it for compensation, and has settled out of court for "a small sum" instead. Astra said it was told PRB would make a profit of £2 million; instead it made a £12 loss. Astra has written off the £20 million owed to it by PRB.

The Belgian government is now investigating PRB's involvement in the sale of gun propellants to Iraq via Jordan, said Mr Roy Barber, Astra's chairman. PRB had a contract, now lapsed, for "unusual types of gun propellant for very large guns" with ATI of Athens, a defence agent of Iraq closely linked to Dr Bull and his Brussels-based Space Research Corporation.

Meanwhile, two further former directors of Astra have been arrested and held for questioning by the Ministry of Defence fraud squad, which

last month began investigating "contractual irregularities" under Astra's former management.

Mr John Anderson, who resigned as an executive director last month without compensation, was questioned last week. Mr John Sellens, the former sales director, was also questioned.

The MoD, which charged Mr Christopher Gumbley, Astra's former chief executive, with corruptly giving a £12,500 BMW car to Mr Denis Stowe, an MoD employee also charged with corruptly receiving it, has also questioned a second MoD employee.

Mr Barber said he knew no more about the continuing MoD investigation.

Astra has given warning that it will fall into "substantial losses" for the year to end-March, mainly as a result of the acquisition of PRB.

Global war on battlefield of wider share ownership

The war of words between British Coal Pension Funds, the aggressor, and Globe Investment Trust has reached a new and noisy pitch. Not without good cause. Globe sees itself as a shining light among investment trusts and neither the cash offer nor the two variants of it would persuade me to sell.

In its defence document issued yesterday, Globe, sensibly, is not fighting on investment performance alone. Though good this can be challenged. Where the confrontation is not conventional is in the field of Wider Share Ownership.

Globe has more shareholders (42,000) than any other investment trust, more shareholders in fact than the vast majority of quoted companies. There is a case, which I support, for making a well-managed investment trust the core of a private investment portfolio; and there are powerful arguments for not accepting an opportunistic bid that, in chairman David Hardy's words, "completely ignores what Globe is all about."

The wider context in which the bid is set was well drawn by Michael Hart, chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. Mr Hart has made his reputation by skilfully conducting the investment policies of Foreign & Colonial, the daddy of all investment trusts, not by making speeches. At the AITC's first annual



KENNETH FLEET

dinner on Wednesday he excelled himself.

Unsurprisingly, as he was defending his own, he saw the Coal Board Pension Fund "blithely digging away in the dark, quite oblivious of the damage it is doing to the revival of a useful part of the City infrastructure, and in particular to the cause of wider share ownership and popular capitalism."

But, he went on: "That may not cut any ice with institutions. There are some managers who would sell their grandmother if they could get the right price for her. But I cannot see how it is in anybody's interest to sell £1 billion of their assets at a discount near the bottom of the market."

Then, addressing the basic problem of investment trusts in bid situations - the discount at which their share prices stand to underlying net asset values - he claimed it was "an oversimplification to say because there is a discount there is oversupply. On the same grounds there should be fewer banks, insurance companies and a lot less of British industry. The

discount problem arose in the '50s, '60s and '70s when high tax drove the private investor out of shares into tax-privileged areas. We have already reversed that trend with a new and competitive investment product."

How much real notice will the grandmother sellers take of Mr Hart? Seventy per cent of investment trust shares are held by institutions and the mass of UK companies is controlled by 30. They will decide the fate of Globe. If they throw it to the Coal Funds they will have condoned wiping out the biggest investment trust sector at a promising stage of its recovery. They will have reinforced the cynics' opinion that the City doesn't care a fig for wider share ownership except during privatization sales.

The AITC is sore with the Coal Funds because the way has just been cleared by the Securities and Investments Board for it to tackle the mass savings market with savings schemes. The word sent buzzing through the industry by its dedicated and zealous leader, Philip Chappell, is "marketing." Not all investment trust managements have yet woken up to the wider responsibilities and new opportunities, and many may prefer to stay asleep. Their aggregate fees are running at about £150 million a year and they spend £10 million on marketing their wares. They may need to reverse the figures!

Backlash by institutions predicted

Hanson attacks US bid barriers

By Carol Leonard

LORD Hanson, chairman of Hanson - which this week revealed that it had more than £6 billion at its disposal in cash and facilities - and Britain's past master of the contested takeover bid, is critical of the growing corporate protectionism in the US, considers hostile acquisitions no longer possible there but predicts an imminent backlash by the big US investment institutions.

Speaking at Smith New Court's annual dinner, held at the former Astor family home, Cliveden, in Buckinghamshire, he said: "When it comes to takeovers in the US, Sir James Goldsmith might tell us the game is over. It is not over. But the rules and playing fields are constantly being changed - and often those changes are to protect sleepy management and to win votes."

"To work within these rules, the British businessman has to do more homework and stay away from hostile bids that are probably not going to work anyway."

He pointed out that 39 states now have some form of anti-takeover law. "It is a sad sight," he went on, "in the US, the bastion of free enterprise."

But there was, he said, mounting pressure among institutional fund managers for a reversal of such regulations and attitudes.

"Institutional fund managers across the US are flexing their muscles and saying that their legal responsibility is to do the best they can for their shareholders. Increasingly, they are objecting to these rules."

Lord Hanson, who rarely speaks in public, had clearly been persuaded by the promise that a number of his own key institutional shareholders would be there to listen to him.



Hanson: "More of us must rally round the flag"

Among the 100 assembled guests - who included Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive of Kingfisher, Mr Norman Ireland, chairman of Bowater, Mr Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications, Mr Ian Maxwell, son of Robert, and Mr Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins - were a large number of prominent fund managers who, both singularly and collectively, held a significant number of Hanson shares.

"All my most important customers are here," Lord Hanson observed. But it was those same "important customers" who were most taken aback when the entrepreneurial peer then turned his attention to the British political arena, which came across as a particularly fervent Conservative Party political broadcast.

Despite insisting: "I'm not politically biased - I employed Glenda Jackson for a TV commercial. She is one of the newest Labour candidates, wearing some of her oldest clothes, I might add," he went on to say that the time had come for "a few more of us to rally round the flag."

"The only cloud on the horizon in the UK is the lack of faith factor here, in this Government. Britain has undoubtedly changed for the better but voters are fickle and ungrateful."

When he finished, one highly influential investment director remarked: "It's not surprising that he holds those views, but it is surprising that, as a businessman, he nailed his colours so firmly and so publicly to the mast. His bridges are burning."

EC set to get tough over Rover

From Michael Binayon

THE European Commission is expected to take a tough position over the repayment of inducements offered to British Aerospace for the purchase of Rover.

This follows the decision by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, to ask Renault to repay much of the debt write-offs paid by the French government.

Sir Leon is now expected to demand that Rover repay all of the £38 million offered as inducements, and may demand a proportion of the undervaluation of the sale.

Commission sources have confirmed that he will now recommend to fellow commissioners that Renault repay about FF8.4 billion (£895 million). The Commission is likely to endorse his recommendation on Wednesday.

Paving the way for a bull run

After the equity market's dazzling 63.3 point leap on Thursday, I had to consult Confucius again without delay. "Beware light at the end of tunnel," he murmured: "it may be false dawn." He may be right - he usually is - but it seems to me we can take comfort from the positive way the market reacted to what it most wanted to hear - some "good" political news, or portents rather than news.

The market knows pretty accurately the extent of the "bad" economic news likely to hit it in the rest of this year. It tends to be less sophisticated in its political analysis. Though given from time to time to optimistic assessments (wishful thinking) of what Labour would do if it were the next government, it must prefer the Conservative

regime to continue. The prospects for Mrs Thatcher have improved.

The fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, both in his *Wall Street Journal* interview and in his speech to the Confederation of British Industry annual dinner, seemed to be contemplating membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System sooner rather than later suggested two things.

First, that the Government was regaining its nerve, helped no doubt by bad, as distinct from disastrous, local election results, and had grasped the fact that the Prime Minister's chauvinism made a significant percentage of voters uneasy. Second, that the City believes that in the early stages at least sterling would be safer within the ERM than without. The City in the

last two weeks has been working itself away from a position in which it felt interest rates might have to go higher to one where it is confident that the next move in rates will be down. With John Major's help it is nearly there. Both the gilt-edged and money markets have tentatively taken this on board and it is the key to stabilizing ordinary shares in preparation for the next bull market.

This could be some way off. It depends on the relative fortunes of the two main parties.

I stay with my prediction that the general election will be in the autumn of 1991, and my feeling that full membership of the EMS is an important date in the political timetable as well as a financial event of some consequence.

The Guinness Trial

Approach 'had no effect' on voting by Prudential

By A Correspondent

LORD John Hunt, the chairman of Prudential Corporation, told a court that an approach by Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, had no effect on the company backing the Guinness bid.

The former Cabinet Secretary said Sir Jack approached him in April 1986, days before the Guinness £2.7 billion offer for Distillers went unconditional.

He told Southwark Crown Court Sir Jack sought to persuade him of the merits of Guinness rather than its rival Argyll, but the approach had no influence on Prudential assenting its 4 per cent holding in Distillers to the brewer. Lord Hunt said he made a note of the meeting. "He [Sir Jack] said the Prudential had a sizeable holding in Distillers and he hoped we would accept the Guinness bid."

"He then outlined the reasons why we should do so, placing particular emphasis on the management strengths and of Mr Ernest Saunders as he saw them." Lord Hunt said the conversation was in general terms but there was nothing in the information Sir Jack gave that was not available elsewhere. As non-executive chairman, he was not involved in the consideration of the rival bids.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Did you say anything during the meet-



Sir Jack 'under pressure'

ing leading him to think you had made a decision about how you would deal with the Prudential holding." Lord Hunt replied: "Very much the opposite, because I told him the Prudential normally made their decisions very much late in the day when it was a contested bid and we tend to wait until the last moment."

Mr Chadwick asked: "Did what he said to you have any influence on the way Prudential decided to deal with the holding in Distillers?"

Lord Hunt said: "No. I reported the approach to me on paper to the investment department but in fact the feeling of the investment committee when they considered the rival bids and when it came before the board was that we should in fact support Argyll."

However, he admitted at

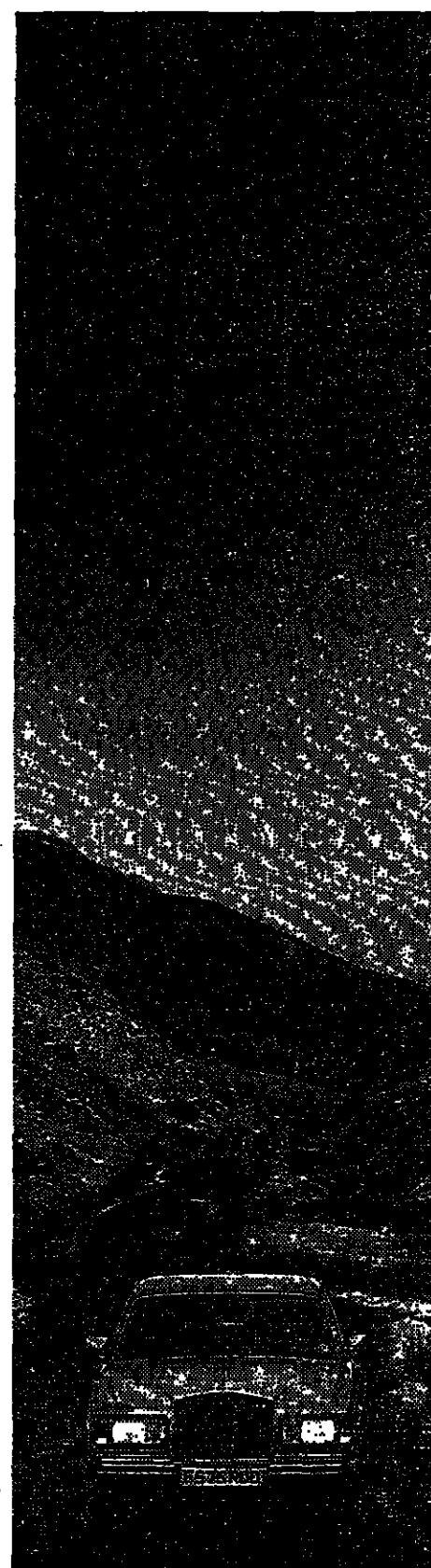
the end of the day, Prudential backed Guinness as it had already won more than 50 per cent of acceptances from Distillers holders. Mr Robert Harman, QC, defending Sir Jack, asked why Lord Hunt was in court as he was on no list of prosecution witnesses.

The reply was that officers of the Prudential read newspaper reports that he had been persuaded to back Guinness by Sir Jack. Lord Hunt added it was an inaccurate picture. The court has heard that when Sir Jack was interviewed by Government inspectors investigating the bid, he claimed he was under pressure to recruit supporters for Guinness. And he agreed Sir Jack had set out in general terms the benefit to the country and to Prudential investors of putting its Distillers stock behind Guinness.

Mr Harman asked: "He sought to persuade you of the merits of an improved company under Ernest Saunders rather than James Gulliver [of Argyll] he said Ernest Saunders was the best man." Lord Hunt replied "yes." He added he made it clear the board had the final decision.

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, Gerald Ronson, aged 30, Anthony Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack, aged 74, deny 24 charges of theft, false accounting and Companies Act breaches. The trial continues.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Asquith & A	Drugs/Stores	
2	Beggs	Industrials A-D	
3	Manfield	Breweries	
4	Graham	Property	
5	Microgen	Electronics	
6	Wace	Property/Adv	
7	Calfrid	Building Roads	
8	Triplex Lloyd	Industrials S-Z	
9	ECC Group (as)	Industrials E-K	
10	Cook (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
11	Island Frozen	Foods	
12	Briston	Property	
13	ASDA Group (as)	Foods	
14	Sieba (as)	Industrials S-Z	
15	Kwik-Fit	Motors/Aircraft	
16	Cater Allen	Banks/Discount	
17	Clyfford	Property	
18	Penins	Drugs/Stores	
19	Sanday	Building Roads	
20	Seager Brick	Building Roads	
21	Christians Int	Industrials A-D	
22	RHM (as)	Foods	
23	Wagon Ind	Industrials S-Z	
24	Menzies (John)	Drugs/Stores	
25	Auto Sec	Electronics	
26	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	
27	Securicor	Industrials S-Z	
28	Amec	Building Roads	
29	First Nat Fin	Banks/Discount	
30	Securicor	Industrials S-Z	
31	Unidare	Industrials S-Z	
32	Canon St	Industrials A-D	
33	Dalry (as)	Foods	
34	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	
35	Watts Blake	Building Roads	
36	Nat West (as)	Banks/Discount	
37	Lidch	Chemicals/Plas	
38	Bowater	Industrials A-D	
39	Southern Prop	Property	
40	Ever Nicholson	Building Roads	
41	Hardy & Hanson	Breweries	
42	Deacons	Property	
43	Jermine (S)	Textiles	
44	Lon Scot Bk	Banks/Discount	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Alma Dibley, of Worthing, West Sussex.

BRITISH FUNDS			
1990	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1990	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1990	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1990	High	Low	Stock

UNDATED			
1990	High	Low	Stock

INDEX-LINKED			
1990	High	Low	Stock

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP			
1990	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Heavy profit-taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 14. Dealings end May 25. Contango day May 29. Settlement day June 4. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BREWERIES							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FINANCE, LAND							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

FOODS							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

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1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

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1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E

© Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend a Interim payment passed t Price at suspension g Dividend and not exclude a special payment is Pre-major figures a Forecast earnings o Ex other t Ex rights a Ex scrips share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				OTHER STERLING RATES			
	Close	1 month	3 months				
199930	1.6895-1.6905	0.84-0.85	2.72-2.70	Argentina austral*	8117.28-8167.35		
199930	1.9895-1.9928	0.25-0.18	0.48-0.40	Australia dollar	2.22-2.23		
199930	1.3293-1.3299	13-14p	5-4p	Bahian real	0.6345-0.6475		
199930	1.0495-1.0505	10-11p	4-3p	Brazil cruzeiro	65.4005-65.4343		
199930	1.0495-1.0540	40-30p	115-100p	Cyprus pound	0.7825-0.7825		
199930	1.0495-1.0415	35-32p	90-80p	Finland marka	6.5625-6.6285		
199930	2.7851-2.7860	1-11p	2-1p	French franc	272.15-26.9393		
199930	245.89-246.98	1-22p	78-70p	Hong Kong dollar	13.1730-13.1826		
199930	173.09-173.51	1-22p	24-13p	Indo rupee	29.00-28.98		
199930	10.8094-10.8277	3p-2p	14-12p	Israeli sheqel	2.4000-2.4000		
199930	1.9353-1.4093	5-4p	125-111p	Malaysian ringgit	4.5562-4.5737		
199930	10.1025-10.1863	13-10p	3p-5p	Mexico peso	4700-4800		
199930	1.0495-1.0505	10-11p	3p-5p	New Zealand dollar	2.5528-2.9598		
199930	19.81-19.83	10-10p	31p-29p	Saudi riyal	27.15-6.6393		
199930	2.7329-2.7330	1-11p	3p-3p	Singapore dollar	1.3181-1.3187		
199930	1.0495-1.0505	10-11p	3p-5p	S. Africa rand (bn)	8.8354-8.7912		
199930	1.0495-1.0505	10-11p	3p-5p	S. African rand	8.8354-8.7912		
199930	1.0495-1.0505	10-11p	3p-5p	U.A.E. dirham	6.18-6.26		

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Eutel and Barclays Bank GTS

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

[illegible]

BULLION: Per ounce
Open: \$368.50-369.00 Close: \$369.50-370.00
High: \$370.75-371.25 Low: \$368.50-369.00

COINS: **Per coin (Ex VAT)**
 Britannia: \$378.00-383.00 (£223.50-226.50)
 Kruggerand: \$389.00-394.00 (£218.00-220.00)
 Maplesoft (1/oz): \$378.00-383.00 (£223.50-226.50)
 American Eagles: \$378.00-383.00 (£223.50-226.50)
 New Sovereigns: \$86.50-88.50 (£51.00-52.50)
 Old Sovereigns: \$86.50-88.50 (£51.00-52.50)
 Platinum: \$492.50 (£291.15)
 Palladium: \$118.00 (£70.05)
 Silver: \$5.05-5.07 (£2.990-3.005)

20	ASB Summit	23	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	107	117	127	137	147	157	167	177	187	197	207	217	227	237	247	257	267	277	287	297	307	317	327	337	347	357	367	377	387	397	407	417	427	437	447	457	467	477	487	497	507	517	527	537	547	557	567	577	587	597	607	617	627	637	647	657	667	677	687	697	707	717	727	737	747	757	767	777	787	797	807	817	827	837	847	857	867	877	887	897	907	917	927	937	947	957	967	977	987	997	1007	1017	1027	1037	1047	1057	1067	1077	1087	1097	1107	1117	1127	1137	1147	1157	1167	1177	1187	1197	1207	1217	1227	1237	1247	1257	1267	1277	1287	1297	1307	1317	1327	1337	1347	1357	1367	1377	1387	1397	1407	1417	1427	1437	1447	1457	1467	1477	1487	1497	1507	1517	1527	1537	1547	1557	1567	1577	1587	1597	1607	1617	1627	1637	1647	1657	1667	1677	1687	1697	1707	1717	1727	1737	1747	1757	1767	1777	1787	1797	1807	1817	1827	1837	1847	1857	1867	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017	2027	2037	2047	2057	2067	2077	2087	2097	2107	2117	2127	2137	2147	2157	2167	2177	2187	2197	2207	2217	2227	2237	2247	2257	2267	2277	2287	2297	2307	2317	2327	2337	2347	2357	2367	2377	2387	2397	2407	2417	2427	2437	2447	2457	2467	2477	2487	2497	2507	2517	2527	2537	2547	2557	2567	2577	2587	2597	2607	2617	2627	2637	2647	2657	2667	2677	2687	2697	2707	2717	2727	2737	2747	2757	2767	2777	2787	2797	2807	2817	2827	2837	2847	2857	2867	2877	2887	2897	2907	2917	2927	2937	2947	2957	2967	2977	2987	2997	3007	3017	3027	3037	3047	3057	3067	3077	3087	3097	3107	3117	3127	3137	3147	3157	3167	3177	3187	3197	3207	3217	3227	3237	3247	3257	3267	3277	3287	3297	3307	3317	3327	3337	3347	3357	3367	3377	3387	3397	3407	3417	3427	3437	3447	3457	3467	3477	3487	3497	3507	3517	3527	3537	3547	3557	3567	3577	3587	3597	3607	3617	3627	3637	3647	3657
21	ASB Summit	23	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	107	117	127	137	147	157	167	177	187	197	207	217	227	237	247	257	267	277	287	297	307	317	327	337	347	357	367	377	387	397	407	417	427	437	447	457	467	477	487	497	507	517	527	537	547	557	567	577	587	597	607	617	627	637	647	657	667	677	687	697	707	717	727	737	747	757	767	777	787	797	807	817	827	837	847	857	867	877	887	897	907	917	927	937	947	957	967	977	987	997	1007	1017	1027	1037	1047	1057	1067	1077	1087	1097	1107	1117	1127	1137	1147	1157	1167	1177	1187	1197	1207	1217	1227	1237	1247	1257	1267	1277	1287	1297	1307	1317	1327	1337	1347	1357	1367	1377	1387	1397	1407	1417	1427	1437	1447	1457	1467	1477	1487	1497	1507	1517	1527	1537	1547	1557	1567	1577	1587	1597	1607	1617	1627	1637	1647	1657	1667	1677	1687	1697	1707	1717	1727	1737	1747	1757	1767	1777	1787	1797	1807	1817	1827	1837	1847	1857	1867	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017	2027	2037	2047	2057	2067	2077	2087	2097	2107	2117	2127	2137	2147	2157	2167	2177	2187	2197	2207	2217	2227	2237	2247	2257	2267	2277	2287	2297	2307	2317	2327	2337	2347	2357	2367	2377	2387	2397	2407	2417	2427	2437	2447	2457	2467	2477	2487	2497	2507	2517	2527	2537	2547	2557	2567	2577	2587	2597	2607	2617	2627	2637	2647	2657	2667	2677	2687	2697	2707	2717	2727	2737	2747	2757	2767	2777	2787	2797	2807	2817	2827	2837	2847	2857	2867	2877	2887	2897	2907	2917	2927	2937	2947	2957	2967	2977	2987	2997	3007	3017	3027	3037	3047	3057	3067	3077	3087	3097	3107	3117	3127	3137	3147	3157	3167	3177	3187	3197	3207	3217	3227	3237	3247	3257	3267	3277	3287	3297	3307	3317	3327	3337	3347	3357	3367	3377	3387	3397	3407	3417	3427	3437	3447	3457	3467	3477	3487	3497	3507	3517	3527	3537	3547	3557	3567	3577	3587	3597	3607	3617	3627	3637	3647	3657
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23	ASB Summit	23	28	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	107	117	127	137	147	157	167	177	187	197	207	217	227	237	247	257	267	277	287	297	307	317	327	337	347	357	367	377	387	397	407	417	427	437	447	457	467	477	487	497	507	517	527	537	547	557	567	577	587	597	607	617	627	637	647	657	667	677	687	697	707	717	727	737	747	757	767	777	787	797	807	817	827	837	847	857	867	877	887	897	907	917	927	937	947	957	967	977	987	997	1007	1017	1027	1037	1047	1057	1067	1077	1087	1097	1107	1117	1127	1137	1147	1157	1167	1177	1187	1197	1207	1217	1227	1237	1247	1257	1267	1277	1287	1297	1307	1317	1327	1337	1347	1357	1367	1377	1387	1397	1407	1417	1427	1437	1447	1457	1467	1477	1487	1497	1507	1517	1527	1537	1547	1557	1567	1577	1587	1597	1607	1617	1627	1637	1647	1657	1667	1677	1687	1697	1707	1717	1727	1737	1747	1757	1767	1777	1787	1797	1807	1817	1827	1837	1847	1857	1867	1877	1887	1897	1907	1917	1927	1937	1947	1957	1967	1977	1987	1997	2007	2017	2027	2037	2047	2057	2067	2077	2087	2097	2107	2117	2127	2137	2147	2157	2167	2177	2187	2197	2207	2217	2227	2237	2247	2257	2267	2277	2287	2297	2307	2317	2327	2337	2347	2357	2367	2377	2387	2397	2407	2417	2427	2437	2447	2457	2467	2477	2487	2497	2507	2517	2527	2537	2547	2557	2567	2577	2587	2597	2607	2617	2627	2637	2647	2657	2667	2677	2687	2697	2707	2717	2727	2737	2747	2757	2767	2777	2787	2797	2807	2817	2827	2837	2847	2857	2867	2877	2887	2897	2907	2917	2927	2937	2947	2957	2967	2977	2987	2997	3007	3017	3027	3037	3047	3057	3067	3077	3087	3097	3107	3117	3127	3137	3147	3157	3167	3177	3187	3197	3207	321																																												

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[illegible]

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Employers wait for Government to act on retirement age

Women face longer working lives after pensions ruling

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

COMPANIES are set to change the age at which men and women retire, to bring them into line, but they want the government to act first and change the state retirement age.

Any reduction of the male retirement age below 64 would be more expensive for both the state and employers than the current retirement differential, even though women would be required to work beyond 60. It is therefore most likely that women will have to work longer.

The Department of Social Security said it was in dis-

cussions on a new pension age but it was not working to a specific deadline.

The European Court this week ruled that occupational pension schemes should apply the same retirement benefits to men as they do to women. The case involved a man made redundant at 52, but the pensions industry agrees that it means that in future pensions will be equated with pay. Men and women will have to be treated the same even though pensions as such are excluded from the Sex Discrimination Act.

Employers and pensions providers want the government to come to a decision on the state retirement age in the near future, so that they can tie in with it.

They argue it is no use their making pensions at 60 available to male employees, at great cost to themselves, if the men will not get a state pension. Only the privileged few in very good pension schemes can retire at 60 without a state pension as well, said Mr Brian Simmonds of Sun Life.

The vast majority of pension schemes, which guarantee to pay a proportion of

the employees' final salary as pension, have different retirement ages for men and women. Men in these schemes, who want to retire five years early at 60, face drawing a pension reduced by about 30 per cent to take account of five years' less contributions and the payment of the pension for five years' longer.

In the most recent survey of National Association of Pensions Funds' members 43 per cent of those who replied had equalised pension ages already. But members of the NAPP tend to provide the better schemes and those who reply to its annual survey are again likely to be proud of the benefits they offer.

Of those who had equalised the retirement age 43 per cent had opted for 60 and 42 per cent had chosen 65. Those who had chosen 60 had tended to be among the first schemes to offer an equal pension age.

Mr Mike Brown of NAPP said: "The schemes which are equalising now tend to choose 65. This is partly because of pension costs and also because of demographic considerations. Employers want to encourage existing employees to stay."

"Even choosing an equal pension age of 64 1/2, which is said to be cost neutral, would be more expensive for employers who had very few female employees."

Mr Simmonds said that approximately 80 per cent of all pension schemes had the state retirement ages. "There

is no point in retiring at 60 on a reduced pension if you have got to wait five years for the pension. If men have to spend five years as technically unemployed before they get their state pension it would not be very satisfactory."

He said that if schemes brought in a joint retirement age of 65 it could reduce the cost of pensions. Women would draw pensions for five years less, make five years' more contributions and the money would remain invested for five years longer.

Mr Ron Spill of Legal & General said: "The industry does not want to be faced with a constant stream of cases on pensions equality. We need to change to a way that does not involve any discrimination. It might be possible to safeguard the existing retirement age for women over 40. But such phasing in could still cause problems in the courts in the future."

He added that widowers' pensions could become obligatory. The provision of a widows' pension is common but widowers' pensions are less so, although on average the cost of providing widowers' pensions is a quarter of providing widows' pensions.

Company schemes already face having to apply their surpluses to improve the pensions of early leavers and they want to know what the impact of equal retirement is going to be before they use these surpluses.



Second home: Antony Tubbs' house in Bramshott, Hants, one of his three bases

Insurers help on Tubbs

By Barbara Ellis

SIX major insurance companies including the Prudential are helping the Securities and Investments Board and the police with inquiries into the investment business done by Mr Antony Tubbs, a former solicitor.

A bankruptcy order against Mr Tubbs was made by the Truro County Court on May 4. He was arrested on May 10, when police removed several boxes of files from his home in Falmouth, Cornwall. He was not charged, but released on police bail pending further inquiries.

Investigations are also believed to have widened to take in a possible connection between Mr Tubbs and two Surrey-based members of Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association.

Mr Tubbs became a tied agent of Allied Dunbar after being struck off as a solicitor for using clients' money and serving a prison sentence. He sold Allied Dunbar products for 10 years until they parted company in December.

The investment group said

it had checked Mr Tubbs' references but did not know of his background.

He operated from his home in Bar Road, Helford Passage, Falmouth; an office at 80 Ebury Street, London SW1; and another home in Bramshott, Hampshire.

Since the Financial Services Act came into operation two years ago, tied agents have been authorized only to pass business to the company to which they are tied. Independents, such as Fimbra members, can deal with a variety.

The Plymouth official receiver's office initially listed 22 unsecured creditors owed £215,000 by Mr Tubbs. This has since been revised to 29 creditors owed about £300,000, but the receiver is still trying to establish a final figure.

Mr Tubbs' assets are shown as just £150, including cash in hand, by the statement of affairs filed with the Truro court.

The largest creditors listed are two women — one in Falmouth owed £67,000 and another in Bideford, Devon,

owed £50,000. Both refused to comment, though one said she was expecting a visit from the police to discuss the matter. Lloyds Bank is among seven creditors owed £10,000.

At Prudential Holborn, Mr Alan Wren, chief executive, said that following a request from the SIB for information, the group had checked the records of its up-market Vanburgh division back to the early eighties and found about 50 clients who had placed business through Mr Tubbs.

"We don't know whether what we have is what the clients think we have," said Mr Wren, estimating total investments held at about £100,000.

A spokesman for Equity & Law said the company was continuing to help the SIB and the police, but did not yet know the scope of its involvement with clients of Mr Tubbs.

At M&G, Mr Tim Miller said his group had no record of being asked for information, or of dealing with Mr Tubbs.

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TIPP-EX?

Leeds drops £1/2m advertising campaign after tax mistake

By Lindsay Cook

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society has had to change a £500,000 advertising campaign because it could mislead investors and cause them to fall foul of the Inland Revenue.

The advertisements for the Tax Free Gold account, which pays interest gross so long as investors do not receive the interest until after April 6, 1991, stated that anyone could have interest paid gross "just so long as the interest earned does not exceed your personal tax allowance in the 1991/2 tax year."

Investors who signed up for the account in this belief would have found that tax was deducted after all if they had any other earnings.

This is because interest can only be paid gross when the investor's total income is not higher than his or her personal allowance.

But when telephoned, the society's helpline repeated that interest would be paid gross so long as it did not exceed the allowance. No questions were asked about other earnings, although the Leeds went on to say that a husband and wife could each invest £20,000 without paying any tax.

A spokeswoman for the society said the advertisement complied with the Building

Societies Association's circulars on the subject and had been checked by the society's internal compliance department.

But later she said that the advertisements were to be changed immediately and that there had been no intention to mislead.

Mr Mark Boleat, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "None of the building societies' advertisements in advance. We have indicated what we thought was necessary, although we accept there's going to be an awful mess as CRT is scrapped."

"I don't believe building societies want investors to be misled. There is no advantage at all in misleading them."

The Inland Revenue will require non-taxpayers to sign declarations that their total earnings are expected to be below the tax allowance limit. These forms are not expected to be available until the end of the year. Those investors who fail to certificate themselves by next April will have to claim back the tax deducted from savings.

Other societies offering gross-paid accounts, which pay interest after CRT is scrapped, could also confuse investors. Some offer interest rates on sums of £50,000 and

more, but allow no withdrawals and pay no interest until next year.

People who invested such a large sum now would undoubtedly have an income above their tax allowance as interest of more than £6,500 would be earned — more than double the individual tax allowance. And interest will continue to clock up in 1991 if the sum remains invested.

The only way they can be sure of not paying tax would be to invest such a sum in the autumn or to choose a time deposit, which does not allow withdrawals but can pay interest gross on deposits placed for much shorter periods.

The accounts, which postpone the interest until next year, are best for smaller investors with no other earnings.

* An indication of the rush offshore to take advantage of independent taxation was given by the profit and loss statement of Abbey National (Overseas), published this week. In 1989 the Jersey subsidiary made a pre-tax profit of £4.5 million compared with less than £1 million in 1988. The former building society was warned by the Jersey authorities not to advertise its gross-paid accounts to housewives.

16.05%

GROSS

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KEY BENEFIT

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It's called our Gross 91 Account. An investment of £10,000 and over offers you an incredible 16.05% gross (variable).

That's high. In fact, no other national building society currently offers a higher rate.

And a minimum investment of only £1,000 and up to £9,999, gets you a return of 15.50% gross (variable).

Although a strictly limited issue, additions can be made to your account while the issue remains open.

To take advantage of our exceptionally high rates of interest, all we ask you to do is maintain your balance with us until 1st May 1991. Thereafter withdrawals are available simply by giving 91 days notice or instantly subject to 91 days penalty. We even have an early closure option should you require money in an emergency. It's a great deal all round.

Interest will be credited on the 30th April 1991, which lets you take full advantage of your 1991-92 tax allowance. If you also require interest paid gross in the current tax year, ask for details of Yorkshire Guernsey.

Simply clip the coupon and return it with your cheque today by FREEPOST to the address below.

Or call into any branch of the Society.

FREEPOST

Act now - Issue strictly limited. Send to: Yorkshire Building Society (Department G91), FREEPOST, Yorkshire House, Wetherby, BRADFORD, Wetherby, BD1 1BR. I enclose a cheque for £1,000 made payable to Yorkshire Building Society. T 19.5 NAME IN FULL (Mr/Ms/Ms)

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D.O.B. TEL.

SIGNATURE (Tib box)

Please send me details of Yorkshire Guernsey

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Building Society

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FAMILY MONEY

Low-starts come home to roost

As if high interest rates were not enough, low-start borrowers now face repaying their enlarged mortgages

BORROWERS with low-start mortgages could face repayment difficulties if, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given warning, interest rates remain high for some time to come.

The early low-start mortgage schemes charge lower interest for the first two, three or four years, after which the shortfall has to be repaid. The first homeowners who took this option will soon have to increase their repayments to make up the discounts of about £100 a month on a £50,000 loan, on top of paying current high interest rates.

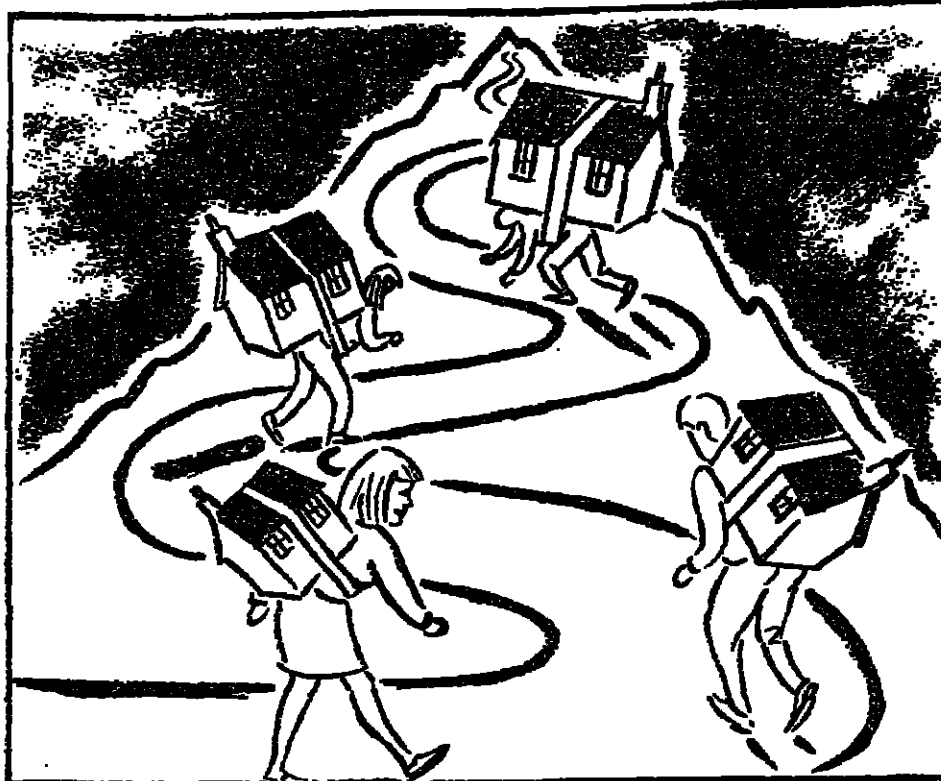
There are various types of low-start mortgage. Some recoup the shortfall through higher monthly repayments, while others add the money owed to the original mortgage so borrowers are repaying a larger loan than they started out with.

The theory behind low-starts is that housebuyers face most hardship in the early years but, with salary increases and promotion, they can afford to repay the subsidy a few years' later.

But if pay rises only keep pace with inflation, these borrowers will find it difficult to meet the larger mortgage costs as well as paying higher prices for the rest of their household expenses.

This could intensify an already worsening arrears problem. Last year, serious arrears rose sharply, with societies blaming high interest rates for the first time, instead of the traditional causes of debt problems such as unemployment and marriage breakdown.

Monthly repayments at the



full rate are now £513.55. If the 5 per cent had been used as a deposit and the customer had borrowed just £47,500, payments would be £483.34 a month. But the repayments are no more expensive than a non-discounted £50,000 loan because the borrower's own money has been used to subsidize repayments.

The Chelsea building society's deferred interest scheme discounts repayments in year one by 40 per cent, reducing annually until year five when they are back to 100 per cent. The under-payments are added to the loan outstanding. For a £60,000 endowment loan, the interest-only payments in year one are £404, rising by £100 each year, on top of any rise in interest rates. The normal endowment mortgage costs £674 a month,

which means that over five years the low-start borrower pays £4,000 less in repayments. With a low-start mortgage, this £4,000 is added to the loan for the remainder of the period. Interest is therefore payable on a higher amount. After 25 years, the low-start will have cost £25,000 more. The Chelsea's new first-time buyers' scheme cuts the interest rate for new customers by 2 per cent until the end of 1991, and extends the mortgage over 40 years. But the 2 per cent is deducted from a mortgage rate 0.5 per cent higher than most at 15.9 per cent. On current rates, a Chelsea borrower starting a discounted loan in June will pay higher interest than most society's charge for 38.5 years.

Margaret Dibben

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FAMILY MONEY

SIB report indicts Manx government

An unpublished paper on the conduct of the authorities before the collapse of an Isle of Man bank in 1982 will further anger those who lost savings

THIS week's announcement by the Isle of Man government that it will make "modest" *ex gratia* payments to depositors in the collapsed Savings & Investment Bank is unlikely to pacify investors in the Douglas-based bank, which closed its doors in 1982, owing £42 million.

The trial on fraud charges of eight bank directors and officials was halted a fortnight ago when the judge ruled that there had been undue delay. The Manx government has now proposed an inquiry to look into its own response to the bank's failure.

The inquiry will not examine the conduct of the Manx authorities before the bank closed, but an unpublished report, which Family Money has seen a copy — does explore exactly this. It reveals that:

* The then-Manx government supported SIB at a time when the bank was involved in tax fraud.

* The government ignored warnings from inside and outside the SIB that it was insolvent.

The report was prepared by a lawyer and two accountants, appointed as inspectors by the Isle of Man High Court at the request of Mr William Dawson, the island's Treasurer.

The inspectors' report has never been published, though the current Manx government has said it does intend to make

it public eventually. More than 500 pages long, it represents three-and-a-half years' work.

The report reveals how UK Inland Revenue officials obtained a Manx court order requiring the SIB to disclose details of two accounts. But the bank won an appeal against the disclosure orders.

The inspectors also found that the quarterly returns appeared simply to have been filed.

"There was no record of any analysis of, or comment upon, those returns, or on SIB's activities generally," the report says.

From mid-1980 onwards, the quarterly returns became incomplete and included fluctuations which, the inspectors say, should have led to enquiries from the Treasury.

"We can find no evidence of enquiry being made," they say.

By February 1981 the bank, according to its own quarterly figures, was actually insolvent. Further figures in August and November confirmed this. Again, no enquiries were made.

When the inspectors applied for a court order compelling government officials to give evidence, their lawyers told the court that as the bank was in liquidation, the appointment of the inspectors was a nullity: they had no right to demand evidence from anyone.

The inspectors comment: "We found this submission, made on behalf of the Treasurer on whose application we had been appointed some two years earlier, startling."

The bank's licence was finally withdrawn on June 25, 1982, when it was apparent that it was unable to meet its obligations, having made massive loans which were not repaid by the borrowers.

The bank's 3,000 or so depositors could not, of course, have monitored the lending of their savings to a succession of companies and individuals. Their reliance was on the regulatory machinery of the Isle of Man government, and the inspectors' report illustrates beyond doubt that such machinery barely existed.

Since 1982 the island has won back the confidence of domestic and external investors by strengthening its laws and establishing a Financial Supervision Commission headed by Mr Jim Noakes, a former Bank of England official.



'Not good enough': Gwendoline Lamb, a depositor who lost £30,000 when the Isle of Man bank failed

In some respects, Manx supervision of the banking and investment industry is now tougher than that on the British mainland.

But investors whose funds were lost when the bank failed are not to be satisfied by any

number of improvements to the system which let them down.

Miss Gwendoline Lamb of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, who lost £30,000, said this week: "They are giving a nod and a wink to depositors, saying that we will be given *ex gratia* payments, but this is simply not good enough. Anything short of a full refund would be a disgrace."

Tony Hetherington

Property funds slump in value

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS in Allied Dunbar property funds saw the value of their holdings plunge this week, following continuing difficulties in the property market.

The group has down-valued its life and property funds by 8 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, wiping millions of pounds off their value. The move affects 100,000 inves-

tors. The Allied Dunbar life fund is valued at £330 million, including contributions from the group's property investment bond. The pension fund is valued at £455 million.

Property funds have been down-valued several times in the past 15 years, but investors were critical of the size of the present fall.

Mr Bob Allen, a divisional manager in Allied Dunbar's

finance department, blamed the fall on a "fundamental" shift in the property market.

The life and pension property funds invest mainly in British commercial property. Property funds of other investment groups which specialize in residential property have also proved poor investments, with unitholders unable to obtain their cash for months.

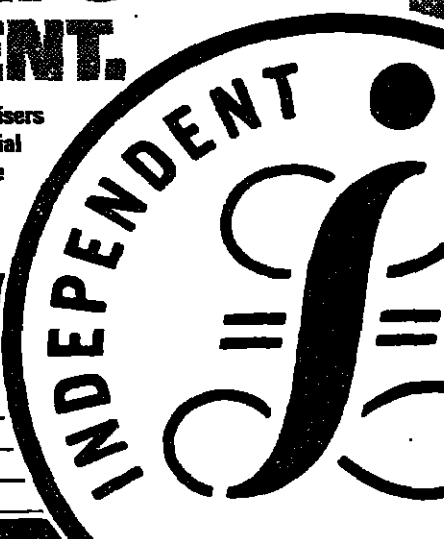
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Financial foot in the door

By Lindsay Cook

BROKERS and other investment salesmen are offering to draft wills in a bid to drum up business. Others are telephoning people at home to offer advice on inheritance tax.

Both developments are a sign of the desperately flat housing market and high interest rates which have cut the number of endowment policies being sold and reduced the amount of spare cash available for investment.

The helpful offers are designed as an entrée to new clients and as a way of finding out about their existing assets and investments.

Those offering to draft wills at a special cheap rate or for free may contact the customer later, and with information gleaned in the process will often tell the customers that they need life assurance policies.

The inheritance tax planners will try to sell life assurance to cover any potential tax bill and possibly other investments.

By providing a service first they gain the confidence of the clients and their gratitude. Regulators are concerned about some of the schemes which are being used as a way round the cold-calling rules of the Securities and Investments Board and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation.

Under SIB's conduct of

business rules, the purpose of any call or approach that has not been previously agreed should immediately be stated. In the case of someone offering inheritance tax planning they should mention they may also try to sell life assurance.

A SIB spokesman said the rise in the incidence of such cold calling was the result of the shortage of mortgage business, which meant that brokers were looking for new openings.

"Anyone not identifying what their motives are when making a call is not complying with the rules."

One couple were left feeling they would die debtors, despite owning a £200,000 house, if they did not take out a life assurance policy.

The wife said she received a telephone call one evening from a broker, who they had never dealt with before, asking if she was aware that inheritance tax starts at £128,000 and that the couple lived in a property worth considerably more than that.

"He asked if he could come and talk to us and I said straightaway, 'If you think we have got a lot of money I have to tell you that we haven't'."

The broker did not tell the couple, who are approaching retirement, where he obtained their names from. He took down information about their earnings, ages and assets and

later sent a report of findings and recommendations for the couple.

This stated that it was the couple's priority to make provision against a potential liability to inheritance tax of £27,000. This could be resolved by taking out a £30 a month life assurance policy which would be paid on the second death.

The couple were advised they would need to act quickly. The broker could offer them the whole of life plan at the rate applicable before the wife's recent birthday if they undertook the policy "with immediate effect."

The report pointed out that married couples' liability to inheritance tax could be reduced by passing part of the estate to the intended beneficiary, but said it did not recommend it in this case.

Each could leave £128,000 without paying tax, passing their share of the house to offspring.

The couple decided not to go ahead with the policy which they would have paid for the rest of their lives.

"Inheritance tax is index-linked and we don't know what liability, if any, we might have. If there's any it can be paid from the sale of the house."

"This made us feel we would be leaving our son with debts."

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Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+8	+8	+6	+7	+6		
2	+7	+5	+4	+4	+9		
3	+5	+8	+3	+5	+8		
4	+6	+7	+4	+8	+5		
5	+4	+8	+3	+7	+8		
6	+5	+5	+3	+3	+7		
7	+6	+5	+7	+5	+9		
8	+6	+5	+8	+5	+5		
9	+4	+7	+2	+7	+6		
10	+7	+8	+8	+8	+7		
11	+8	+8	+4	+4	+9		
12	+4	+8	+4	+5	+7		
13	+8	+4	+6	+5	+8		
14	+6	+8	+3	+4	+8		
15	+5	+7	+3	+7	+6		
16	+4	+6	+2	+6	+6		
17	+4	+7	+3	+8	+6		
18	+5	+7	+3	+5	+7		
19	+5	+7	+4	+4	+7		
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28	+7	+5	+6	+5	+9		
29	+4	+8	+4	+6	+6		
30	+5	+5	+5	+4	+7		
31	+4	+8	+2	+1	+7		
32	+5	+6	+5	+5	+7		
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41	+4	+8	+3	+6	+6		
42	+5	+7	+3	+8	+7		
43	+7	+4	+7	+5	+8		
44	+6	+7	+4	+4	+8		



Berlin: one wall that has opened to foreign investors

FAMILY MONEY

Wall of privacy set to crumble in German firms

By Barbara Ellis

GERMANY could turn out to be as much of a let-down for today's investors as for their grandfathers. Already enough of the Berlin Wall to constitute the Great Wall of China has been sold abroad, mainly to be giftwrapped.

Mr Ronald and Mrs Nancy Reagan, the former US first family, recently took delivery of a wall chunk measuring one metre by three, while unit trust groups such as Royal London have handed out millimetre-sized morsels to publicize fund launches.

And fund managers launching European smaller companies unit trusts, seemingly every week, appear to be stretching their arguments just as far.

Mr Crispin Odey, the manager of Baring German Growth Trust, for example, claimed recently that the new generation of Germans was "richer, noisier, more triumphant and more amusing."

Mr Tristan Hillgarth, manager of Framlington's European smaller companies fund, is a little more blunt. "If Gorbachev goes we have had it," he says.

However, Mr Odey and Mr Hillgarth have an investment belief in common. Both profess confidence that Germany's smaller companies will abandon the habits of 200 years — secretive borrowing from banks — and go to their stock market to raise money. This, they claim, will provide buying opportunities for their funds.

But other professional investors point out there are important differences between Germany and Britain or the US.

"It's not like here where anyone with two pennies to rub together can get a quote and then go bust," says Mr Timothy Plaut, German market analyst with Warburg Securities, who sees more small companies coming to the market, but relatively slowly.

At MM Warburg, Brinckmann, Wirtz in Hamburg, Herr Wolf Mendt Merck points out that small companies are not the only ones to prefer privacy.

Names as internationally known as Bosch are still off-limits to investors because they are family owned — along with most of the profitable mail order houses and other large sections of industry.

The only connection between Warburg Hamburg and

Warburg London is that a nephew of the Hamburg firm's owner founded the London group.

As a comparison: while the total market capitalization of companies in Britain is roughly equal to the country's Gross National Product, in Germany it represents only about a quarter of GNP.

Herr Mendt Merck, who manages Brown Shipley's £15 million German unit trust, says that thanks to a new breed of corporate finance manager, German companies are becoming more willing than in the past to seek stock market funding.

But he does not foresee an immediate flood of new issues. Last year, the German market saw 24 new issues, compared with just five in 1985.

MM Warburg is forecasting another 23 this year, with a further 22 during 1991 and 1992.

Herr Mendt Merck adds that foreigners currently pushing about £1 billion net a month into the German market may find themselves having to buy non-voting preference shares, as owners of companies often use these as a way of raising money without losing control.

Meanwhile, a chart tracking the FAZ (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) index and net purchases of German shares by foreigners shows a clear correlation. Ever since 1985, the main peaks and troughs in foreign net buying have practically matched highs and lows in the index.

In other words, in Germany foreigners have done most of their buying at the top and most of their selling at the bottom.

Mortgage aimed at converts

By Jon Ashworth

BEAR Stearns Home Loans, one of the new breed of mortgage lenders, has unveiled a scheme which combines the advantages of fixed-rate and variable loans.

The Passport mortgage is a variable rate loan that may be converted to a long-term fixed rate loan at any time when offered in the first five years, without early redemption penalties.

Miss Marcia Myerberg, managing director of Bear Stearns Home Loans, said the new scheme was the best alternative to a fixed rate

mortgage while interest rates stay high.

"This is the first truly convertible mortgage in the UK," said Miss Myerberg. "We have created what we believe is the ideal product for today's market which is difficult to call."

New borrowers who take out a Passport mortgage will be given first choice on any fixed rate loans launched by Bear Stearns in the next five years.

The present rate is 14.9 per cent, including a 0.75 per cent discount, but borrowers who

wish to cut costs further have two deferred interest schemes to choose from.

The first cuts 3 per cent off the standard rate in the first three years, which has to be paid off later. This works out at 11.9 per cent at present.

The second scheme gives a 6 per cent discount in the first year, 4 per cent in the second, and 1 per cent in the third. The rate for new borrowers is 8.9 per cent.

Borrowers pay an acceptance fee of 1 per cent of the value of the loan, but this is deducted from the fee payable when they switch to a fixed-rate loan.

The acceptance fee on an £85,000 mortgage would be £850 but there are no early redemption penalties.

Passport borrowers also pay a 2 per cent fee if they switch to a fixed-rate loan.

Like the 25-year fixed rate mortgage launched in January, Passport will be sold through a panel of life offices. They are: The LAS Group, Norwich Union, Royal Life, Sun Alliance and John Charcol, the broker.

Lockton directors fend off calls to stand down

By Jon Ashworth

DIRECTORS of Lockton Retail Stores, the troubled retailer, fended off calls for their resignation at a meeting in London this week, and are to dispose of two loss-making assets.

The company, part of a series of Business Expansion Scheme companies sponsored by Guinness Mahon, is selling the assets to Mr David Kosh, its chief executive.

Lockton Retail Stores wrote to shareholders two weeks ago warning that it expects to make a £2.3 million loss in the year to January.

Angry shareholders called for the company to be wound up, but a motion in favour of the disposals — including a vote by Mr Kosh who is the majority shareholder — was

finally carried unanimously. Many of the 800 shareholders in Lockton Retail Stores also invested in Lockton Shops, part of the same BES series, which went into liquidation last week. Many say they only invested in the Lockton series because they were backed by Guinness Mahon and have called on the group to pay compensation.

Mr Patrick Moorsom, Guinness Mahon's vice-chairman, has consistently denied any responsibility in the matter.

But Mr Stephen Bantoft, of BES Investment Research, said Guinness Mahon owed a duty of care to investors, whatever their profile. This was particularly important for start-up companies which have no track record, he said.

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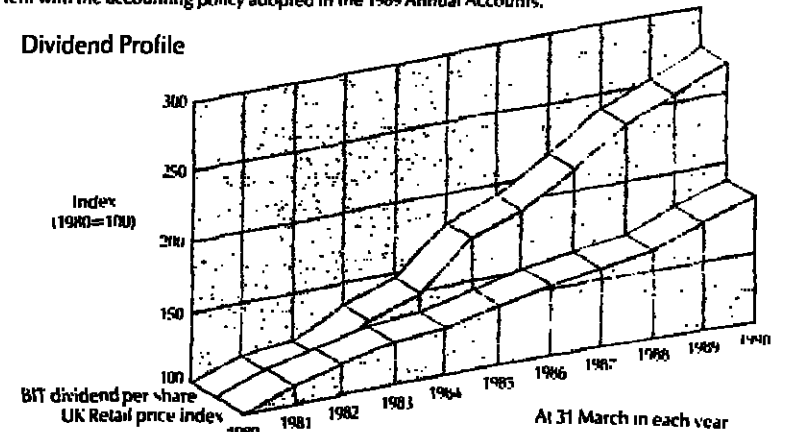
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Stroud and Swindon favoured over C&G in building society merger

The decision that split a village

Narrow victory
in the battle for
Frome Selwood
is not the end
of the fight.
A report by
Jon Ashworth

Members of the tiny Frome Selwood building society have given warning that they will withdraw their savings in protest after plans to merge with the Stroud and Swindon Society were narrowly approved this week.

The 14,600 Frome members will receive a 2 per cent bonus on the value of their savings once the merger goes through on July 1.

But the decision to merge has upset many members who had favoured a rival bid from the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. The C&G had tried to tempt savers with the prospect of a 3 per cent bonus as well as an attractive discount on mortgages. And it had set aside £360,000 for the Frome directors, including £81,000 for Mr Roy Walwin, the chairman.

The merger debate has divided local residents and left the sleepy Somerset town basking in an unprecedented level of publicity. Many of the 200 members who attended Thursday's meeting, held in the local cinema, were more concerned about how much money they could make than whether or not the society could keep its local identity. Before the meeting, many members gave warning that they would withdraw their savings if the decision to merge with the Stroud and Swindon was approved. They planned to wait until the bonus payments had been made before taking their funds elsewhere.

Mr Don Fletcher, who has lived in Frome for 14 years, said he hoped Frome Selwood would not lose its character. "It is a nice friendly society,



Merging on fair and traditional terms: Roy Walwin, the Frome chairman, who turned down a bonus offer of £80,972 from the C&G

We know the people and you can talk to them," Mr Bruno Selar, who has £50,000 with the society, said he was unhappy with the voting procedure. "This way, you only have one chance. It's yes or no and it's not democratic." Mr Jeremy Cross, a local councillor who voted against the merger, said the society was well managed and well run and should remain so. "I feel the management has been honourable but misguided. I believe you have to go for the best financial offer in the interest of members."

The decision to proceed with the merger was finally approved by a narrow margin. To proceed, 75 per cent of voting members had to vote in favour. After proxies were counted, 76.2 per cent voted for the motion — in stark contrast to other building society mergers, where up to

98 per cent of voters have given their approval.

Mr Walwin said he was delighted with the outcome, adding: "It is very satisfying to prove it is still possible to agree a merger on fair and traditional terms to the benefit of all members without votes being influenced by City takeover techniques."

Earlier, he had accused the C&G of trying to "buy" the support of Frome directors. Attacking what he called "the unacceptable face of building societyism," he said £359,576 had been offered by the C&G in salary and pension entitlements. "We were not prepared to accept these inducements," he added.

Mr Walwin said he had been offered £52,340 in retirement benefits. After serving on a regional board for three years, the package would have been worth £80,972. Other

directors stood to make between £44,900 and £26,000 each if the C&G bid was accepted. Mr Walwin said the final bill would have been paid for by the Frome members, adding: "We accept that this sort of thing goes on, but we're not prepared to be bought."

The outcome of the meeting largely depended on the 2,500 proxy votes received from members. Mr Trevor Morris, who led a group of members protesting against the merger, said several had been sent the wrong proxy forms by mistake. Forms sent by Frome and the Stroud and Swindon to their own members looked very similar. But Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, which distributed the forms, said no mistakes had been made. It was pointed out that any Frome member who had

received a Stroud & Swindon proxy form by mistake would have had enough time to correct the error.

Mr Morris asked the board whether their salaries had tripled in three years. Mr Walwin said this was "quite possible" since their work had tripled in the same period. He told members they would be better off under the Stroud and Swindon plans, since higher savings rates would more than compensate for a lower cash bonus.

He said: "The mood in the meeting was definitely against the board. If only those present had voted, the outcome could have been very different."

The vote count revealed 1,632 savers in favour of the merger and 508 against. Of the 373 borrowers who voted, 293, 78.5 per cent, voted in favour. Mr Morris said he was prepared to take the matter of

spoilt proxy forms up with the Building Societies' Commission. The vote was so close that even a handful of incorrect proxies could have tipped the balance, he said.

Mr Richard Payne, the Stroud and Swindon's chief executive, said: "The Frome members have shown that they wish to remain with the local society, pursuing local policies from local branches operated by local employees."

It had been feared that a merger with the C&G would lead to job losses, even though the financial rewards would have been high to begin with.

The fate of Mr Jim Marshall, Frome's chief executive, who was suspended last month, remained unclear yesterday. He was due to step down once the merger had been approved, but is thought to have been accused of supporting the C&G offer.

Best deal may be societies' wisest option

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

AFTER weeks of acrimony, the Frome Selwood Permanent Building Society is to merge with the Stroud and Swindon Building Society, but the opposing members have taught the rest of the building society movement a lesson.

If they do not want to be embroiled in a messy battle over ownership, and risk having their recommendation voted out by the members, they will in future have to recommend the best deal.

To achieve a merger, any society has to win 75 per cent of the votes cast. In Frome, where there are about 8,500 voting members, the society had the support of 76.2 per cent of the investors who voted. If fewer than 20 members had voted differently there could have been an historic and humiliating defeat.

The confirmation hearing takes place at the Building Societies' Commission on June 19 and the protestors are set to prove voting irregularities.

No other society would be wise to risk such a close call. The Frome members are lucky they will get their 2 per cent and may win a further bonus if the Stroud and Swindon in turn becomes the target of a larger society. The campaign against the merger was waged purely on the grounds of the cash bonuses.

The conversion of the Abbey National from a building society to a bank set members of other building societies on the trail of windfall gains. The Abbey's gift of 100 free shares was expected to spell the end of ordinary society mergers. Then last November, the C&G announced its plans to merge with the Guardian Building Society and paid an average £520 to investors. Bonuses are now the order of the day. Even the savers of the troubled Peckham Building Society are to receive 0.75 per cent next month.

There are a number of small societies who have chief executives nearing retirement age whose directors must realize they do not have a future on their own. Several of them will be in talks with other societies. Too small to interest banks, insurance groups and foreign

companies, their future lies in a building society merger.

In any negotiations, their directors will have to be sure of securing the best deal for members. They will look to the Frome debacle and want to avoid a similar battle. If they have two offers and want to merge with the society making the lower one they will have to persuade it to improve its offer. Or if there is a feature of the better offer which they do not feel able to accept, such as job losses, they will have to negotiate so that they can recommend the best offer.

The C&G is committed to accepting the best offer for its members, whoever it comes from. Mr Andrew Longhurst, its chief executive, said: "I still believe that when directors are putting a proposition to members, the most significant point is the amount of cash it will put in the members' pockets and wallets. Suppose the C&G decides, for the sake of argument, that it wants to do a deal with the Prudential, but Sun Life has made a better offer. We would always go for the better deal."

The narrow backing for the Frome board means insurance companies, and others wanting to buy building societies, will have to pay "all" the reserves to the members, if not more, to be certain that their offer will not be bettered.

Dr John Wriglesworth, of UBS Phillips & Drew, predicts that a company will announce it is taking over a building society this year. There are many firms on the lookout, but they know the first to accept a bid will face similar problems to those of Abbey.

Members of societies with the highest reserve asset ratios might try to release some money in bonus form. Societies like the cash-rich National Counties, with a reserve asset ratio in excess of 20 per cent, could be requisitioned by 50 members, who each put up £10 to pay a bonus to its members. So long as the group of 50 got all the legal requirements right, they could cause a motion to be put to members.

In the meantime, a number of building societies are in talks about mergers and takeovers and all are keen to have their members' support.

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Passions that run backstage at Oberammergau



The housewife Virgin: Elisabeth Petre was chosen after fears of court action by local feminists

Hanging on wooden pegs behind the door of Christ's dressing-room were two crowns of thorns. It was impossible to look at them without being overcome by both awe and an almost blasphemous sense of the ludicrous; two feelings which constantly surprise the visitor to Oberammergau.

The crowns looked as though it would have been easy to prick a finger on the thorns: they evoked the violence of the old story with a physicality which was shocking. At the same time, I knew that the crowns were only stage props, with no more authenticity than the 14 pewter cups stacked on a shelf nearby, ready for the Last Supper, or the assorted palm branches piled up in a basket in the corridor, or Pharaoh's throne, parked like a limousine beside the stage door. There was a comic incongruity about the solemn concreteness of these relics, and about the whole highly organized masquerade.

On the shelves of the village's innumerable woodcarvers' shops, painted Virgins ranked elbow to elbow, with weirdly polytheistic effect, waiting like goddesses to be carried off in thousands by the pilgrims who will visit Oberammergau this summer, during which the villagers will fulfil the vow made by their ancestors during a plague in 1633 to put on a Passion Play every 10 years until the end of time.

But, unlike the carved host of Marys, the two crowns of thorns were not identical. One was a plaited circlet of real thorns, woven by someone with fingers which must have been both leathery and deft; the other was a glass fibre coronet with thick, blunt thorns, which would never prick a finger but may well "read" more dramatically from the back of the stalls in the open-air theatre in which the Passion will be enacted 94 times this summer before audiences of 5,000.

The two crowns represent the old and the new. The prickly one is a reverently preserved relic (this is Catholic territory, after all) from an earlier production. It faithfully reproduces the instrument of torture and derision depicted in innumerable devotional prints and paintings. It expresses a sturdy traditional literalism. The other crown, for use this summer, may be less authentic, but the young director, 28-year-old Christian Stückl, hopes that it will carry its message more effectively. Village conservatives would rather see thorns represent thorns.

Arguments over stage props are only some of the bitter quarrels which have surrounded Herr Stückl since he was chosen as director by the village council three years ago. For decades the play has been a focus for personal and religious squabbling on a local and even an international scale. In post-war years, it has come under regular attack for its portrayal of the Jews. Diplomatic revisions of text and stage business have now taken some, though not all, of the sting out of this issue.

But this year's battles have still broken friendships, divided families, and brought a storm of abusive letters upon the village. Several prominent players have withdrawn from the cast in protest against the new regime, and a shed with farm equipment worth £10,000 inside, belonging to one of the leading figures in the dispute, was destroyed by fire.

If there are any villagers who are not fierce partisans on one side or the other (which is unlikely), they must be fear-

For the first time in centuries a married woman will play the Virgin Mary, but the reformers' victory has left a village divided, reports

George Hill



Director: Christian Stückl

ful that the tumult may affect the future of the spectacle, which is Oberammergau's source of world fame and chief money-spinner. But the signs are that, as yet, the world's pilgrims are unperturbed by the scandals: when the show opens on Monday the whole run of the production will already have been sold out months in advance.

The focus of this year's dissension epitomizes the way symbols tend to trip over the literal, and the transcendent tends to rub shoulders with the everyday. Crudely, the question has been whether the Virgin ought to be played by a virgin.

In Catholic Bavaria, the virginity of Christ's mother is not to be considered lightly. For at least 120 years, the community has imposed a rule that the actress who plays Mary, and all the other women acting in the play, should be unmarried, and under 35. In the past, this effectively guaranteed the virtue of the leading lady, though it often meant in practice that she was visibly 10 or 20 years younger than her Son.

More recently, the guarantee has become something of a mockery. Women hoping to play a leading role have lived in sin for years, and even had illegitimate children, so as not to forfeit their entitlement. In some ways, it is a tale of bucolic goings-on reminiscent of Britten's *Albert Herring*. The dispute is about concepts of purity, about the social roles of men and women, and about hard cash. Inhabitants who meet the stiff residential qualifications (broadly, to be born in the village

or to have lived there for 20 years) have a right to take part in the play. Over a season, even the humblest extra who shouts "Hosanna" in the crowd is paid about £2,300 for theoretical loss of earnings, while leading members of the cast receive up to £11,000. The restrictions on marriage and age saved the municipality from having to pay as many as 1,000 otherwise eligible citizens.

"This is a holy, money-making village," one long-term resident told me. "Some of the older members of the cast put on a great air of piety, but for most of the younger members it is not so much a religious event as a source of excitement. The quarrels are part of the atmosphere. What you see on stage is very holy, but behind the scenes, things go on that are not so holy. There is not actually a bordello here, but you can find most other kinds of sin if you look: you can even buy heroin, for instance."

In 1988, a group of Oberammergau feminists went to the Constitutional Court in Munich over the ban on married women, invoking equal rights legislation dating from 1927. The names of the major players were announced at a village ceremony. When the names of the two actresses to represent Mary were chalked up on a blackboard (all major parts in the play are doubled, to reduce stress and jealousy), the reformers were surprised and delighted to see the name of Elisabeth Petre.

Frau Petre is 37 years old and married, with two sons aged eight and five. The selection committee had decided to jump before it was pushed by the court (which has since ruled in favour of the feminists). It was a major victory for Herr Stückl, who had lobbied hard for Frau Petre, and had begged her to be a candidate.

She had been reluctant at first to repeat the bruising experiences she had gone through in the storm over a controversial experimental production in 1977, in which she had played Mary. She had been offered the part again in 1980, but had refused it because she was out of sympathy with the conservative faction then in the ascendant.

Apart from her role in past clashes, she was equivocally placed because to an extent she was married, but to an extent she was not. She is Catholic, but her Romanian husband, Alexandru, is of the Russian Orthodox faith. The Catholic authorities would not bless the union, so the two had married in a civil ceremony. Only weeks before the opening night, the parish priest agreed to minimize possible scandal over a "Virgin" who was married, unmarried and a mother, and allowed a church wedding, co-celebrated with an Orthodox priest behind locked doors in the village's onion-steeped rooco church.

There was little outward sign of the bitterness of the rift when I



The Agony: a village Christ in torment, watched by Elisabeth Petre (Mary), whose recent church marriage averted a scandal

visited Oberammergau. An uncanny hush lay over the place as it awaited the imminent influx of visitors. The village is a pretty, prosperous, tourist place, with colourful frescos on the walls of its old houses, fields full of cowslips, and dark crags looming above. For every grocer's or frommenger's shop, there must be three hotels and at least five woodcarvers' shops.

The place is like one of those cactus plants which produce one unique bloom every 10 years, and are rather prickly objects for the other nine.

The visitor can never forget that this is not as other villages are, because of the beards. The actors despise the artifice of spirit gum and greasepaint, so they spend the years between productions nursing beards of biblical majesty.

Imagine all the best beards you have ever heard of those of Charles Darwin, Bernard Shaw, Karl Marx, Father Christmas; they are all to be seen alive and luxuriant at Oberammergau. In a place so eminently respectable, they introduce disorientating overtones of Woodstock and Cardboard City. Jesus looms around in jeans and headband, St Peter is a bank clerk.

A surrealistic running interplay exists between events and relationships in Oberammergau today and Jerusalem 2000 years ago. The Virgin Mary is married to a carpenter, a Romanian who made his own "Flight into Egypt" from tyranny 14 years ago. They live in a wide-caved chalet with frilled lace curtains in a lane called Am Kreuzweg ("The Way of the Cross"). The Virgin's sister-in-law is the wife of Judas (not the Judas who was Christ last time round). Christ's mother (a completely different person from the Virgin Mary, you understand) is one of the feminist heroines who took the issue to court. She told me the story with the fire of battle in her eyes, and proudly showed me a portrait of her son in costume, wearing his

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We had better start with the BBC. The corporation has opened its new Written Archive Centre at Cavendish Park near Reading. In the Domesday Book, Cavendish's 2,400 acres were valued at £20, property of the first Earl of Buckingham, a cousin of the Conqueror. Warwick made kings there, Elizabeth slept and Charles I was imprisoned. The BBC paid an inflationary £47,000 for it in 1941. It was its monitoring station during the war, and now it eavesdrops on 130 countries daily.

Only a few treasures were on display in the new archive house but they were riveting, especially early applications for auditions. Vanessa Redgrave, aged 15½, wrote offering herself as an actor on "Uncle Mac's" recommendation along with "my brother Corin who is 12½... my father has given us some coaching". At school she had played "Mole in Toad of Toad Hall and St Joan". The snag was that "my brother (he can do American)" would be going to "public school in the autumn and therefore only available in holidays". Kathleen Ferrier applied in 1941. Back in 1934 Peter N.L. Pears asked if he could be heard for "the Wireless Singers". Guy Burgess pleaded that "Major Blunt" be allowed to talk about "the preservation of art treasures in countries occupied by British and American forces... he can be got through me". I pored over the J.B. Priestley exhibits. Early in his broadcasting career, he was reported to be "heavily to work with, unaccommodating, unpunctual, egotistical, puts everyone's back up, not worth it". He has his heirs.

NOW for the social whirl. There was a "Taste of the Nineties Luncheon" at Claridges to celebrate Scottish salmon. Somehow, "the King of freshwater fish" failed to rise in two pedestrian recipes — soufflé with a spinach coulis or baked, smothered by a warm vinaigrette. "It wasn't the wine," murmured Mr Snodgrass in a broken voice (in *Pickwick Papers*). "It was the salmon." I am with Mr Snodgrass.

Then there was Sunday's wake for Peter Langan who would have been 49. Langan was stuffed with survivors — George Best, Henry Cooper, both Ronnies, Bob Hoskins, Ben Kingsley and all. Keith Waterhouse suggested two minutes' hubbub, pulling girls screaming under tables, instead of the more usual two minutes' silence. He was not heeded. Langan already has two biographers. Brian Sewell's book was on display. Christopher Wilson,

"the official biographer", said Sewell had declined to assist him as he was being paid. He wondered if Sewell was accepting royalties? He didn't know (few did, did you?) that Langan's house was filmed by Loyd Grossman for *Through the Keyhole* a few days before his death and so was never used — macabre footage for a TV obituary? The journalist Mike Molloy thought it would have been the party to set the new decade if only Jeffrey Archer had been there. Molloy was in Grantham for the Archer bash after his ultra-fragrant libel case. Curious to find out what happened in a folly at the bottom of the garden, he and Clive James peered in. There, unattended, was a word processor spookily tapping out an Archer novel.

At Cliveden, to which I haven't been since Alan Brien had a cottage there in Keeler days, we launched the Ackerman/Martell *Food and Hotel Guide*. Lunch was a good deal jollier than the weekend Bob Boothby and Harold Nicolson spent there in November 1930. Boothby recorded a "glass of white wine was all you got... the Oswald Mosleys brought a petrol tin to my room. It was filled with martini." Nicolson added: "After dinner to enliven the party Lady Astor dons a Victorian hat and a pair of false teeth. It does not enliven the party."

TOMORROW the South Bank Centre hosts a day of music — inside, outside, up and down the foyers, on boats. It climaxes with a Simon Rattle gala, all to raise cash for Aids relief and support. They asked me to do a programme note about brunch — there is a brunch/cabaret at noon. I have always assumed that brunch was an American invention — maybe it is; but there is a reference to it in *Punch* back in August 1896. "To be fashionable nowadays we must 'brunch', truly an excellent portmanteau word introduced last year by Mr Guy Beringer in the now defunct *Hunters Weekly*, and indicating a combined breakfast and lunch." The next year the *Westminster Gazette* escalated the word into verse: "Perish scrambling breakfast, formal lunch/Hardened night birds fondly cherish all the subtle charms of brunch."

NEW plays have been sprouting as fast as last month's new plays have been shedding their audiences — and Richard Harris, a late bloomer, still to burst into flower at Wyndhams. Lothar Bluteau has two more inescapable weeks at the Vaudeville. At the Lyric Michael Redington, the producer of *Vanilla*, uncharacteristically missed an opening night promotion trick. His

party was in the stalls bar, while 100 yards away in Leicester Square Haagen-Dazs opened an all-ice-cream restaurant that very afternoon. At the Phoenix I saw the penultimate preview of Peter Hall's company in *The Wild Duck*. Sir Peter has said that their long provincial tour proved the old adage that Ibsen isn't box office. I supposed the West End previews would tell a different story. "No," he replied gloomily, "now we're proving it in the West End." It is a stirring, if not super-starry, cast, and will surely pick up.

Peter's guest was Maria St Just. Lady St Just is Tennessee Williams' literary executor and Concorded off to America the next day to promote her fascinating edition of Ten-

nesse's letters to her. Gore Vidal had asked her what happened to her letters to Tennessee. She said he seemed not to have kept them. "That's Tennessee!" said Gore. "So sentimental."

SO MUCH reader collaboration this week! We must close the Shakespearean "knock-knocks" — too many Toby or not Tobys, too many triple Tamaras, too many Leon Macduffs but spare a chuckle for Jane Farrell's "Ida." "Ida who?" "Ida rather be a dog and obey the moon than such a Roman." Frank Courtney's "Tis one." "Tis one what?" "Tis one thing to be tempted, Escalus, another thing to fall." And Robert Simmond's "Otis." "Oh, 'tis foul in here."

Some weeks ago I asked for candidates for "bottom-rung-of-the-ladder" pathos. Doug McVittie writes from France to recall a bedraggled visiting Essex under-12 football team from last year. They were playing in the annual twintown contest. Their captain led his ramshackle urchins to the trophy table before the match and pointed to the smallest prize — the booby — saying, proudly: "That's the one we're going to win."

I thought I'd seen the back of lightbulb jokes but Andrew Nickolds, who has been working with two American writers from *Cheers*, Brian and Meri, collected this one. "How many TV executives does it take to change a lightbulb?" "Does it have to be a lightbulb?"

AUDITIONS



PETER McKAY

If I were...

If I were John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, I would feel this morning like a mugging victim who is hauled to his feet by police and accused of contributing to the wave of violent crime. Farmers, I would have to accept, now have me in mind when they construct scarecrows even though I am accused of being in their pockets. The manure mafia has attacked me over my opposition to grain cartels, poison food compensations, new stubble-burning laws, and my lack of appreciation for what the NFU president Sir Simon Gourlay calls "the looming farm crisis". It was almost a relief to be called "the patron saint of fishmongers" by the *Daily Mirror*, if only they had not spoilt it by adding that I was "the Corporal Jones of a Dad's Army Cabinet."

In politics it is always better to be Minister For Something People Do Not Have An Opinion About, like foreign affairs. Being Minister for Agriculture is to invite a daily barrage of conflicting advice and insults.



... John Selwyn Gummer

Even my triumphs sound silly. "Gummer Claims Victory on Fish Quotas" is the most positive headline I have attracted in the past year. If I may quote George Crabbe from *The Parish Register*: "Our farmers round, well pleased with constant gain/Like other farmers flourish and complain."

There are few things more basic than eating (yes, but they come under Health or Environment). Now I stand in the dock charged with foisting mad cow meat on the public. As always in this job, there is no lack of advice which really boils down to one simple request. Sack myself, and my ministry. Set up a new Ministry of Food designed to make our virtual producers toe the health line. Goodbye to fuddy-duddy old rebates, grants, kickbacks, bribes, set-asides and all of the other laborious procedures which have characterized the vernal relationship between the Government and British farmers since the last war. Say hello to a brave, abrasive new era in which the Government will cast Old MacDonald adrift on the capitalist sea, guided only by a massive list of dos and don'ts. As if! — or the Government, totally supported by the Opposition — could achieve such a thing overnight.

Thankfully, I am not given to panic. As a muscular Christian who has attacked the hand-holding fraternity in the Church of England, I have had to endure more than my share of abuse. I have been accused by Peter Bottomley — now in Northern Ireland, best place for him — of being attracted to language that grabs headlines, which is rather like being called careless with money by Ken Dodd.

Rows about food — as with public hoo-has on every other topic — exhaust themselves finally. Even the most indignant voter realizes in time that we all share responsibility for the things we eat. For years, the overriding objective of agriculture in this country was to make us as self-sufficient as possible in food. To do that, we had to stuff animals, birds and soil with additives. This was accepted as the price we paid for cheap, home-grown snap. If it is a price we are no longer prepared to pay, so be it. But please don't blame John Selwyn Gummer for inventing this suddenly unpopular word, or of being in caboots with the farmers — especially when they are throwing dead cows at him.

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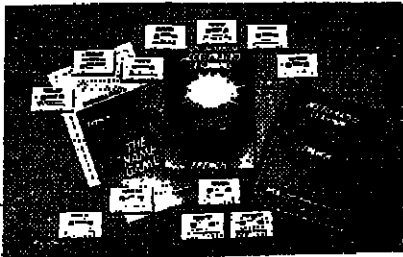
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Oberammergau: spiritual drama

Continued from previous page

crown of thorns. As soon as I entered the theatre, which stands rather gloomily on the edge of the village, I recognized the atmosphere. Anyone who has ever been involved in a school play or amateur dramatics in the church hall would have felt at home at once. A throng of extras, all aglow with excitement, carrying beautifully laundered Israelite rags on coat-hangers, were mobbing a gangling, boyish young man, whose lank, dark hair was gathered in a ponytail. He wore no beard (an unconventional touch here), and was patiently fending off their clamour with rueful cheerfulness.

This was Herr Stückl, the director. He reminded me of one of those curates, or junior schoolteachers, who has been put in charge of drama by his wiser and lazier elders, and is finding rather to his surprise that he is enjoying every moment of it.

There can be an emotional intensity about amateur theatre which the professional stage seldom equals. With a cast of more than 1,000 — not counting sheep, doves and the donkey which carries Christ into Jerusalem — this is amateur dramatics on an epic scale.

In fact, Herr Stückl would scarcely be where he is without his share of drive and personal ambition. Though born in the village, he spent a year working in a theatre in Munich as part of his apprenticeship for his present job, and hopes to return to the professional stage if he makes his name here. He is concerned to play down the rift in the community, and insists that the main hostility to Frau Petre's appointment had come not from the village, but from religious opponents in other parts of Germany and elsewhere, even from London.

"There are these feelings, but we do not share them," he told me. "It is the idea of the Church that Mary was a virgin and got a baby from God in a way that we do not understand, but it is a certainty that the baby came out in the natural way. Even in the teaching of the Church, she was a virgin and also a mother. With a natural woman you can only present one of those two aspects."

The vow of 1633 has shaped the village's destiny ever since. It stopped the plague overnight, and since then it has become Oberammergau's main occupation. Over the centuries, it has changed from a purely local act of devotion to an international media event. There can be few communities anywhere so wholly shaped by a single activity. Directly or indirectly, the play is the bread and butter of most families. It is the theme of local politics, for elections to the town council regularly turn on disputes about the play. (The council is the ultimate authority in all decisions about its form and personnel). Between the drama on stage and the dramas behind the scenes, it is the villagers' obsession, their taste of glory, their lifelong soap opera — and for some, the albatross round Oberammergau's neck.

As one disgruntled villager put it to me: "Nine years out of 10, our hotels are half-empty, and the play is to blame. Our image is as pious as that of Lourdes — and who'd want to go to Lourdes for a holiday?"

The official voice of the Catholic Church in the village is Dr Franz Dietl, the parish priest who conducted Frau Petre's belated marriage ceremony. The virginity rule was not based on current Church doctrine, he told me. "For everybody outside Oberammergau, I think the rule came to seem rather odd, and I suggested that they let it lapse. In former times, a higher degree of symbolism was seen in the position of the girl who played Mary. My special wish is that all the actors really believe in what they are playing. If they do, it is of lower importance whether they are married or not."

Dr Dietl's main worry about the play was a different

and more unexpected one. He was concerned that it might become almost a rival to the Church. "I am eager that the Church does not get beside the play; that people do not take their religious feelings out in the play rather than the Church, because after 90 performances they will not be standing up there with glowing hearts any more. One will need to rebuild spirituality carefully afterwards."

He painted a picture of a community where relationships took on special intensity because of the immense project.

"Because of the play, this is a village where talents and tensions are highly developed. Many people act out their roles in life as vigorously as on the stage. It is a place where there are many cocks on the dunghill."

I found the Virgin Mary's house all at sixes and sevens.

Between rehearsals, Frau Petre had been organizing a collection of clothes for Romania, and she had hastily tidied away the boxes to receive me, in a parlour lined with books, with dried flowers hanging from the rafters and a heap of soft toys in the corner.

She has a high-cheekboned, distinguished face, and very expressive hands and wrists. I asked her whether she saw the controversy as a religious or practical one. She giggled and ducked her head, so that her beautiful dark hair fell across her face: "It was because practically nobody was a virgin any more," she said.

Then, more seriously, she added that she was sure the main reason for opposition had been religious. It was not true that hostility to her appointment had come only from fanatics outside the village. "There was open hostility here, and it was awful. I can still feel who are my friends and who are my enemies."

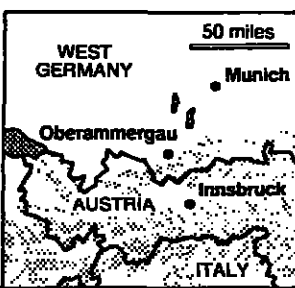
With more modesty than probability, she suggested that Herr Stückl had picked her because she was an old-fashioned woman who might pass as the mother of a 30-year-old. "I really didn't run after the job. My husband asked me to do it, and so did Herr Stückl, but I was very doubtful. However, I think the rule did have to be changed; somebody had to go through this. I didn't want special rights for myself, but I did want the women who had been left out to get a chance."

She dropped her eyes humbly, the line of her neck saying eloquently: "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord." She was such an accomplished and instinctive actress that I asked whether, like Herr Stückl, she had considered going on the professional stage.

She seemed puzzled for a moment, as if she could not see the connection. Then she replied with a distinction that exists in the German language, but not in English. The word for a professional actor, she said, was *Schauspieler*. It denoted a skill, an ability to assume a role and put it down like a mask. But someone who played at Oberammergau was a *Darsteller*, a "self-actor."

"This play is not a show, and I'm not a star," she said. "Here you have to be more honest in the way you act. You bring up what is in you. Perhaps there is a greater identification with the person one plays."

Suddenly I felt I understood why it had seemed so important to some villagers to have a virgin playing the Virgin. As for the task Frau Petre was preparing herself to take on, it suddenly seemed a truly awesome one. And I realized with delight that the two German words expressed exactly what I had often felt about the truth that there can be in amateur acting, which the professional stage with all its tricks can hardly equal. "She was growing weary, and her two saucer-eyed little boys were getting fidgety. It must be tiring to live in a community so concentrated on a single continuing project, I said. "It doesn't make things easy. There is more to quarrel about. But it is a constructive stress. It creates sensibility in people. If you go to Unterammergau, just down the road, you can feel the difference at once. It's... just a place."



'There was open hostility here in the village, and it was awful'

A CHILDHOOD: SIR PETER HALL

'When I was 10 I asked to hear Mozart's Requiem. I was terribly precocious'

by Ray Connolly

Sir Peter Hall's parents could not have given him more than they did. Working-class people, they believed the way ahead was through education. They encouraged their only son to excel. The first book Sir Peter remembers in the home was a collected works of Dickens, in tiny print, obtained by his father, on his behalf, by saving coupons in the *News Chronicle*. He still has the book.

But in encouraging him they created a huge gulf, — which was not properly bridged until the last years of my father's life.

"It was terribly sad because they were wonderful people. I used to ask my mother why they didn't have any more children and she'd say: 'We can't do for two what we can do for one'."

But the more they did for him the greater the gap became. "I am very much of the Richard Hoggart generation. The working-class boy, elementary school, grammar school and university — who finds himself absolutely separated from his parents and his family. The *Uses of Literacy* struck me like a thunderbolt."

"It wasn't so much a class gap as an education gap between us. They were terribly proud of how far they had come and of where they thought I might go, although of course they were terribly worried at first, dead worried."

The result was that he felt an outsider, not only in his family because of his education, but also an outsider in where he was trying to arrive, at school and at university.

The most celebrated English stage director, having run the Royal Shakespeare Company and then the National Theatre, he now has his own company. His production of Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* has just opened at the Phoenix Theatre.

He was born in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, in 1930. His mother liked to say she was "in business", but she was really an assistant in a draper's shop. His father was a goods clerk on the railway, who had been to grammar school on a scholarship and "bettered himself. He was the first person in my family to get any kind of education."

The ambition was quickly passed on to his son. "He was a very wise, very calm man, but totally unambitious. He didn't want to get on. I think all my mother's thwarted ambitions about my father and myself were poured into me."

"My father's father had been a rat catcher on the Sandringham estate. This used to fascinate me, but my mother would always say: 'He wasn't a rat catcher, he was a vermin exterminator.' Isn't it wonderful? It makes me cry to think of it."

"They only died a year and a half ago, within a few days of each other, but they never once went in an aeroplane, nor even abroad. They could have done. My father got free travel with the railways after the war. They could have got on a train and gone to Paris but they never did. They just didn't want to."

Right from the start they gave their son the best they knew, with a private kindergarten education from five until eight. "My father only earned about £3 a week but somehow they found the money for this, and for piano lessons, which were sixpence a week. My musical education probably came before anything else, in fact."

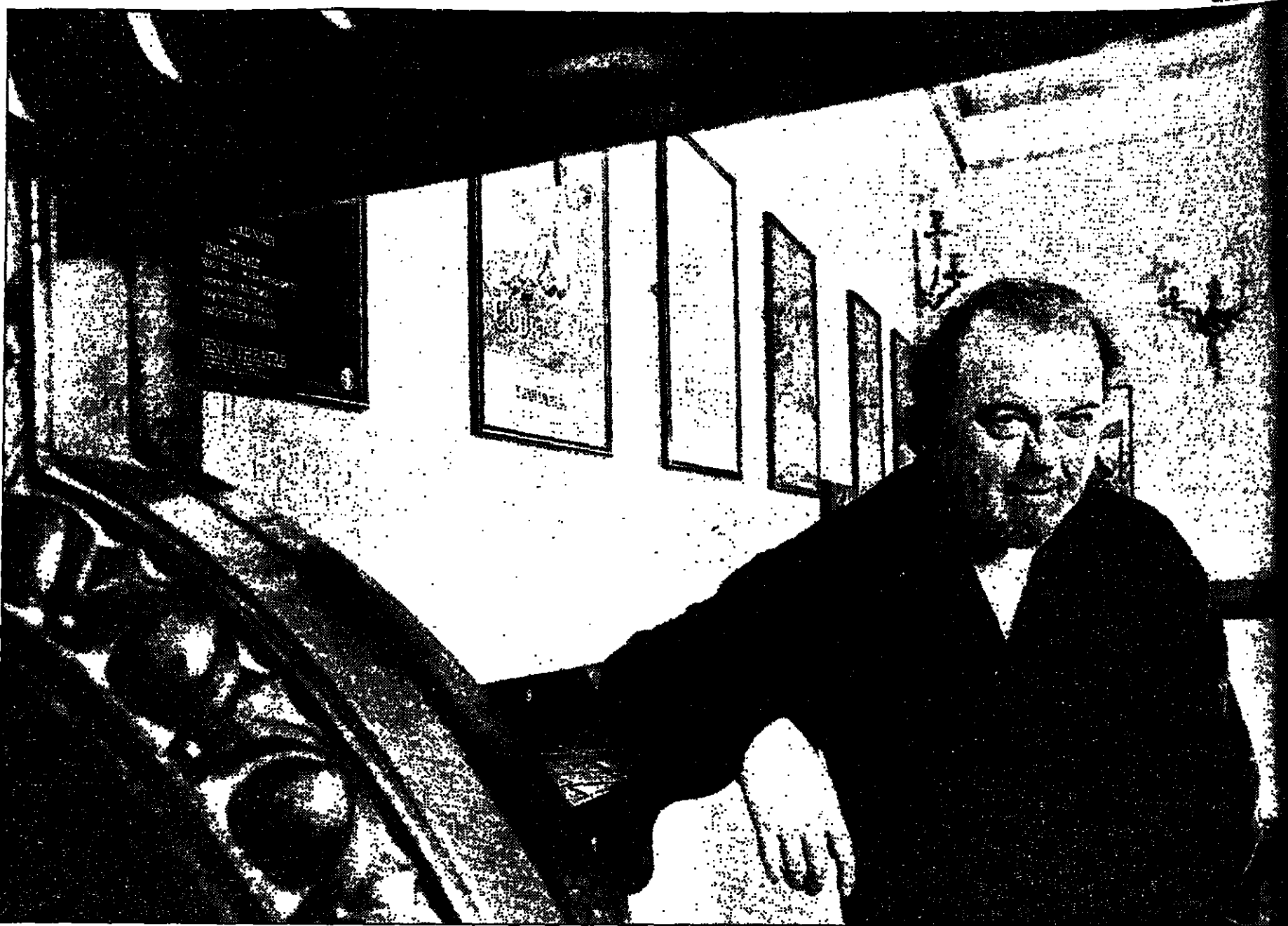
"My father was with the Bury St Edmunds Amateur Operatic Society, and because I had quite an easy aptitude for learning to play I used to accompany him from quite early on."

He was, he suspects, a hideously precocious child, due in part to the fact that for a long time he was the only one in a large extended family of aunts, uncles and grandparents. Never expected to do any work around the house ("I grew up to believe that was women's work"), he was always encouraged to read or listen to music. In his bedroom he would have an electric fire, his radio and his books. He always read "omnivourously".

When Sir Peter was between the ages of five and nine his father was station master at Barham, a remote Suffolk spot on a single line with just five trains a day. They had no gas, electricity or running water, and only an outside lavatory. He loved it. "I learnt about the woods and birds and flowers from an old gamekeeper called Charlie Kent on the Duke of Grafton's estate."

Years later this early fascination with rural life would lead him to make the film *Akenfield*.

Just before the outbreak of war the family moved to Cambridge, which he considers one of the greatest pieces of good fortune in his life. "It was very significant



Sir Peter Hall and (below) as a child: "My grandfather was a rat catcher on the Sandringham estate. But my mother would always call him 'a vermin exterminator'."

because I had the war years in Cambridge, and so many things were evacuated from London and happened there. I remember I saw *The Marriage of Figaro* in the week of my tenth birthday. I know it was that week because on my birthday I heard Mozart's Requiem in King's College Chapel."

"Whose idea was that? 'I asked if I could go. That's why I think I was terribly precocious.'"

He was now attending an elementary school but won a scholarship to Perse School, Cambridge. Although he was already growing away from his parents he felt an outsider at school, too. The minor scholarship boys had their fees paid by the local authority, and while all the other boys would have shiny new books bought by their fathers, the minor scholarship boys would have old dog-eared hand-me-downs with "minor scholar book" stamped all over them. He remembers this with absolute fury.

He was doing well, but there were always days of anxiety that he would not get over the next hurdle — the scholarship to the grammar school, the school certificate, the higher certificate and a scholarship to Cambridge. Of course he did. He passed everything, always, played Hamlet and even became head boy. And somewhere along the line his Suffolk accent gradually, unintentionally, disappeared.

His theatrical education had begun at four, when he had been taken to see *Robinson Crusoe* at the Playhouse, Bury St Edmunds. He can still remember the

expectation and the lights. There was a great deal of theatre in Cambridge in the war years ("I saw Gielgud's Hamlet in 1942, standing at the back in the Arts Theatre"). Sometimes his parents would go with him, but they really only liked it because he did.

When he reached his teens there would be school parties to Stratford and, able to make use of his father's free travel on the railways (the facility extended to employees' families), he went up to London regularly to stay with an aunt in Lewisham, going to the theatre, matinees and evenings, for four or five days in a row. He would do odd jobs — fruit picking and paper rounds — to earn the ticket money. He has, he thinks, seen everything worth seeing on the London stage since 1943.



"It was still possible to see things terribly cheaply in those days. My equivalent today couldn't see what I saw."

"I don't know where the idea to become a director came from — how does a child know what a director does? — but I knew someone made it all happen. And I wanted to do that from very early on. I know I read Stanislavsky at an indecently early age."

"The greatest blessing I've had in life is to know what I wanted to do, and then to find that the world would let me do it."

Before university there was national service. At 18 he finished playing Hamlet in the school production one Friday night, and arrived at RAF West Kirby on the Monday morning, aiming at the education corps which he thought was the best skive and which might not be a total waste of time.

The air force had nothing to be said for it at all. It was, he says, full of the most horrible, appalling, terrible people, and where fascism and bullying were rife. But the education training centre did have the advantage of being just four miles from Stratford-upon-Avon.

"Take the 6.30 bus from the depot down to the theatre, and you could walk in those days. I can still recite the cast list of every production from the summer of 1948."

After a year as an acting sergeant teaching economics and business management at a demobilization centre in Germany (although he had only done economics as a subject at school),

where he played piano duets and directed his first play (strangely, he cannot remember its title), he returned to Cambridge, to St Catharine's College and his degree in English. "It was my best subject, but I also wanted to get as much Shakespeare as I could."

He was now engaged to a pilot officer in the WRAF, and for a year his master plan to become a director went awry. This was good for his degree and he got a first at the end of his first year. In the second year the theatre won, the engagement was broken off, he acted a lot and got a second. In his final year he directed five productions and ended up with a third.

"Had there been a fourth year I'd have failed. But university gives you those three precious years to find out what you want to do. It isn't about qualifications."

Directing came to him with an almost physical sense of knowing he was doing the right thing. "Like a duck taking to water. I just knew what to do. The only times I've been unhappy directing are when I've been thinking: 'Now what ought I to do?'"

"One of the great things about Cambridge in those days was that the national Press came to your productions. By the time I had finished I'd had *Uncle Vanya* and *Love's Labour's Lost* favourably reviewed in the national Press. When I got my degree I did a season at the Cambridge Festival and was asked to take Pirandello's *Henry IV* for a fortnight to the Arts Theatre in London, where it got more Press."

The day after it opened he was telephoned by Windsor Rep who asked him to do a play there. Two weeks after leaving Cambridge he was directing professionally. The good luck continued. Given an assistant's job at the Arts, between directing at various reps around the south of England, he was suddenly left in charge. One of his first productions was a play by a writer he had never heard of. It was called *Waiting for Godot*.

"It was sent round to me by Donald Albery who said he couldn't get anyone who wanted to put it on or who wanted to be in it. I read it straight through and decided immediately. I can't pretend I knew what it was about, but I didn't worry about that. I just found it terribly surprising, very funny and very moving. A new form of play."

Godot received a mixed reception ("there was muttering and murmuring all the way through the first night"), but it alerted others to his presence. Tennessee Williams called and told him he would like him to do his plays in London (Sir Peter has just finished filming his Broadway production of Williams's *Orpheus Descending*), and a call came from Stratford. Since the age of 15, his ambition had been to run Stratford.

He did not realize it at the time, but he was incredibly lucky. As though it were not enough to be given a theatre at the age of 24, he had also been sent the right play. And, of course, had he been a different animal, he might have turned that play down.

Geraldine Ranson on writing as an art

In a fair hand

If anyone had told our grandmothers that the day would come when able-bodied, educated women would pay good money for other people to write their invitations, they would have scarcely believed it. Yet today hostesses will pay 60p a word and more to a calligrapher who writes their place cards and invitations, and woe betide anyone foolish enough to make use of the convenience of computer labels on the envelopes.

"I need my calligrapher more than I need my secretary," says Deborah Bennett, a marketing and communications expert. She frequently gives image-building parties for her clients where the invitation is the first signal. When it is beautifully handwritten, people understand immediately that the occasion is very special and they respond."

Alastair Elliott Lockhart of The Walton Street Stationery Company, who will write for his customers under protest, charges £60 per hour: "I once even wrote a thank-you letter for a girl after a weekend house party. A wedding invitation takes 15 minutes and of course it is repetitive and boring. I won't do more than 25 the same."

"When customers come into the shop to buy an expensive pen like a Montblanc (their Meisterstück, issued this month, costs from £340) to improve their handwriting, Elliott Lockhart usually suggests that they start with a cheaper Pelikan pen which encloses a booklet showing the strokes, and go away and practise."

Most professional calligraphers and handwriting enthusiasts belong to the Society for Italic Handwriting, which on Tuesday meets for its annual meeting and to hear an address from its new

president, Humphrey Lyttelton, who has chosen as his topic "Living with Pen and Processor". As word processors came into common use, he noted that italic writing sets became standard stock in most branches of W.H. Smith.

Humphrey Lyttelton remembers writing lines in copperplate as a punishment at his prep school in Sunningdale. He inherited his love of calligraphy from his father, George, a house master at Eton. After his parents' death, their son inherited his father's desk with all his pens and his bulletins from the Society for Italic Handwriting.

Sir Patrick Nairne, Chancellor of Essex University and a former Master of St Catharine's College, Oxford, who lists calligraphy among his hobbies, instilled a love of handwriting into his six children. Today his daughter, Fiona Greenwood, is a professional calligrapher. She also teaches. "The trouble is that most teachers are not taught how to teach handwriting. Most of them are not even confident about their own. Most of her pupils are adult seeking to learn to write a legible, pleasing script. An hour's coaching makes a big difference. Mrs Greenwood believes, and three sessions can help an adult to create a new and personal style."

David Kindersley, the stone cutter and inventor of eight typefaces, including that used for many street names in Britain, never uses a typewriter in his workshops. He also claims that bills written in his wife's beautiful hand get paid very much more quickly. Humphrey Lyttelton adds: "I turn my quarterly returns into a wonderful exercise in calligraphy. I don't know if it impresses the VAT man but it gives me enormous pleasure."

CRAIG BROWN

Now here's a funny thing

this week, there was one at the Design Museum titled "Sardine Tin Labels from Norway", on until June 17.

And so it goes on: on Wednesday, it was announced that the new Stephen Sondheim musical would be called *Assassins*. Leading characters would include Lee Harvey Oswald and Sirhan Sirhan, and there would be a final chorus in which the assassins turn to the audience singing: "We've done our bit — now it's your turn." Just as I was adding this to the claim by the editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* in last week's *Spectator* that there had once been a musical about the Kray brothers, I read of yet another musical, called *The Death of Klinghoffer*, about the wheelchair-bound tourist who was murdered by terrorists on the Achille Lauro in 1985.

From time to time in these pages, I like to parody the memoirs of politicians, highlighting their conceit, their pomposity, their simple delight in themselves. Over the past couple of years, the job has become abominably hard, for each politician seems far more adept at parodying himself than I could ever hope to be. Who could capture the complacency of Callaghan better than he does himself, in this sentence from his memoirs, summing up his feelings on the outcome of the disastrous 1979 General Election? "It demonstrated how much steady understanding and support existed for what we had tried to do." And who could better parody the idea of Christmas at the Banns than Tony Benn, in this extract from his diaries for Sunday December 26, 1976? "Caroline gave each of us a copy of the Communist Manifesto in our stockings, published in English in Russia, and she gave Josh a book called *Marx for Beginners* and gave Hilary Isaac Deutscher's three-volume biography of Trotsky."

Though Graham Greene only came second in a *New Statesman* weekend competition for parodies of Graham Greene, I suspect he was

trying too hard. He should have sent in the first paragraph of *The Honorary Consul*: "Doctor Eduardo Plarr stood in the small port of Parana, among the rails and yellow cranes, watching where a horizontal plume of smoke stretched over the Chaco...."

It was an evening which, by some mysterious combination of failing light and the smell of an unrecognized plant, brings back to some men the sense of childhood and of future hope and to others the sense of something which has been lost and nearly forgotten."

Similarly, a Ruth Rendell first paragraph competition would undoubtedly be won by Ruth Rendell: "It was the first dead body he had ever seen... Something unpleasant had happened to her face; it was swollen and a greyish-blue colour, and her eyes protruded under strained, shiny eyelids" (*Master of the Moor*).

And no one can quite capture the full pedantry of the final, nit-picking lines of an Anthony Powell review quite so well as Anthony Powell: "The note on p.90 should read Lady Diana Bridgeman, not Bradford; the Princess de Caraman-Chimay on p.430, the same as she on p.559, was née Hennessy, not Hamilton; the dog that acted in *La Dolce Vita* belonged to Irish Tree, not Mrs Taffy Rodd."

There are already murmurings in the joke-mills of a national strike by humorists. We will down exclamation-marks until the world pulls its socks up and acts seriously once more. But the situation is looking bleak. News just in confirms that Radio 1 disc-jockey Mike Read, prevented by the Beitman estate from putting on a musical called *England's Teddy Bear* about Sir John Beitman, will be presenting a new musical about Rupert Brooke in the West End this autumn. Already, massed lines of humorists are gathering at Beachy Head, ready to lean.



Good Will to the elderly

Over 8,000 elderly people who would otherwise be living alone now enjoy the benefit of privacy and companionship in an Abbeyfield House. These small caring households for 7-10 elderly people have a 'family' atmosphere and encourage independence within a familiar neighbourhood.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Shamed by his French eclectic interior, Peter Stothard goes to view the dazzling faucetry of a 'classic' mansion in the Washington suburbs

Great staircase, shame about the bathrooms



"Those bathrooms are terrible," said the woman with the red suit and matching mobile phone. She was talking about our bathrooms. She had invited herself in from the street, placed her calling card by the door and taken a little tour. "Nice house," she smiled. "French eclectic — which means that bits of it are French," she explained with a second, flashier smile. "But the bathrooms ... they're the wrong bits."

Her card claimed that she was a "million dollar" realtor. Her lips proclaimed that she was "pricing up a local property for a client". We probably should have shown her the door. She could have been a female Raffles, sizing up our chaste living room for a bid. But then we would never have known what she felt about our fat chrome "faucets" (or taps, as we lamely insisted on calling them); nor her view of our hand-basins, which we discovered were called "lavatories". And we would not have known the name of our real lavatories: "Flushmasters! Wonderful pull, as long as they work," she summed up with a sigh, before treading gingerly over the dulled black-and-white tiles towards the bedroom door, out down the wrought-iron staircase ("a good bit of France") to the safety of her baby BMW.

Without her we might also not have learnt a useful fact about the place in which we had come to live: that there are two types of houses in Washington — those that people like to live in, and those that realtors like to sell. Sometimes the two categories overlap — but only rarely, when the city sits on the edge of a recession and even America's most ultra-mobile people prefer to batten down their hatches and stay put.

Our house has had only two previous owners in 60 years. It is a very comfortable family house. 1926 was a good year for jazz, General Strikes and, in our view, for French Eclectic architecture in the Chevy Chase district. But it was a bad year for bathrooms.

Indeed, the only good year for bathrooms, it transpires, is this year. Lavatories and faucets keep builders in business. And in 1990 — when the US capital feels an economic draught from falling defence budgets, rising interest rates and a nasty sense that it is no longer the centre of the free world

— the pressure on the chrome-and-gold pipework is rising.

The action is not so much now in the old areas of town, but some five miles further out of the city, towards Baltimore. The heart of the new selling-fields is called Potomac — a smart local name for a place which is as ill-defined and expandable as a marketing man could desire, and which developers are convinced can be made as chic as old Georgetown.

Potomac's "tract mansions", as they are called, sit on minimum-sized two-acre plots which only a year or two ago were part of the Maryland countryside. They are generically described as "classics", and have names like The Manor and The Hampstead. They feel very close packed together. That may be because of their vast size; also, perhaps, because of the American "builder's acre", a portion which, unlike the baker's dozen, is less than it ought to be. There are no nearby shops or schools, and the roads are narrow.

But buyers are said to like the mixture of exclusivity and familiarity which these "neighbourhoods" bring. To those who are persuaded to pay up to \$5 million for them, the tract mansions are the latest statement of "arrival". To the car-drivers on the clogged arterial highway, they are massive idols to look upon and dream. And to those who have to spend any time in them, they are, at least, marvellous places to wash.



One of the choicest currently on sale is at 10704 Riverwood Drive. Here, according to a brochure from two of Washington's best-known builders, is "a world of romance in which a paradox of spacious intimacy prevails". The main bedroom suite alone has 14 separate rooms.

"The master bath, in a word, is sumptuous," the would-be buyer is told. And, in case a single word is not enough, there are a few more. "The bath is warmed to the foot with radiant heat floors and bejewelled with dazzling polished faucetry."

"Watch the firelight dancing in the reflection of champagne chilled from the wet bar tucked discreetly against the wall," the builders urge. "Gaze at falling stars from the second-storey balcony, or contemplate a midnight swim in the tranquil pool below."

Champagne is to be served in the double "Bruno Fiumi" Jacuzzi. This large, cream marble bath is the only part of the suite designated for joint his-and-her use. The rest is precisely marked out for sexual privacy. He has a green marble shower that two Franciscan priests could comfortably inhabit — if they could bear the sense of living in a giant after-shave carton. She has a "vanity" big enough to make up the entire cast of *A Chorus Line*. Both have clothes cupboards that would satisfy Mrs Marcos — even he is anticipated to be the possessor of a hundred pairs of shoes.

There is something wonderfully sincere about the way in which our guiding realtor (not the "millionaire club" lady, but Mr Oliver Cowan, the nation's "Number One") reveals the bathrooms of Riverwood. He has already shown us the 60ft entertainment hall which we all suspect will be more wanted than used. We have seen the Caledonia Granite kitchen, with its Jennair state-of-the-art oven beside Barely Gray breaded Rutt cabinetry — and we all know in our hearts that it will one day be occupied by a tin-opener, pizza-delivery-dialling couple with a Spanish-speaking staff who would much prefer an Aga.

We have seen the "butler's office", with the desk where the cook is supposed to sit to write up the daily menus and pay the grocery bills for the non-existent local shop. Let us hope she has watched some old episodes of *Upstairs Downstairs*. We have toured the cherry-panelled "library" and seen its shelf space for barely 40 books.

But, by the Jacuzzi upstairs, between the church-style window and the warmed marble floors, there is a sex-and-champagne fantasy in which Mr Cowan is truly confident. "You only come this way once, so why not do it right?" he insists, as his mobile phone beeps for the thirtieth time that hour. His urging is not wholly without urgency. Mr Cowan is something of a Washington classic himself — an elegant black salesman who has graduated from vacuum cleaners to multi-million dollar houses by working 16 hours a day, seven days a week.

There is apparently "activity" on Riverwood. Any hopes that we (finally shamed by our faucets) or our friends (fresh with new funds from England) might be able to buy a house there later this year were apparently slim. But, accord-

ing to the head of Long and Foster, one of Washington's biggest realtor groups, "anything over \$450,000 is slow". The price of 10704 Riverwood Drive is \$2.2 million. Mr Cowan admits that business is tough, but says that the "Number One" still managed to make four deals last week. He is still confidently "self-employed, single and happy". If big sales get fewer, he can always concentrate for a while on cheaper houses.



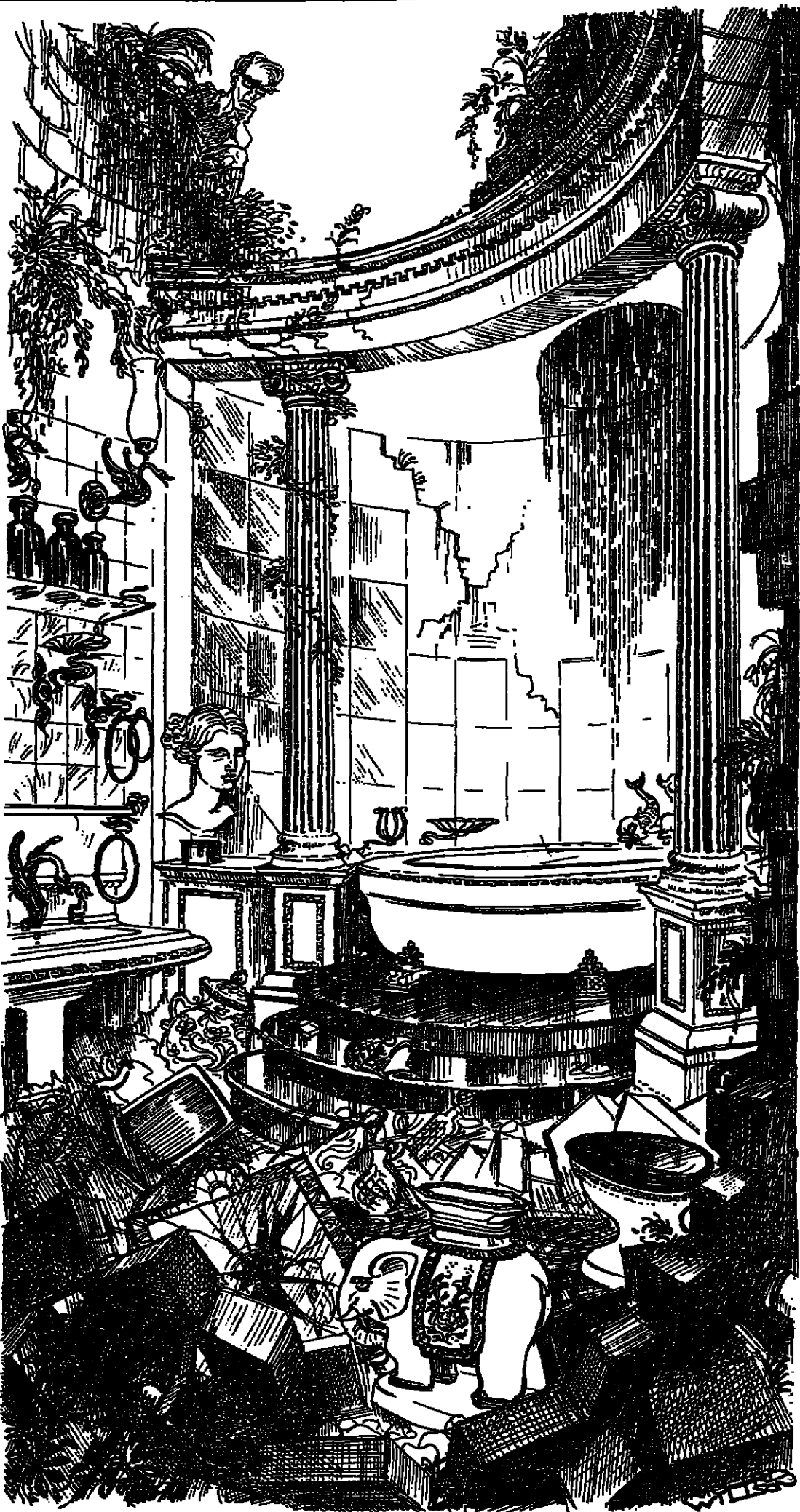
The big worry among Washington real-estate investors is that they may have built on a field or two too far.

Before the Second World War, the US capital was a sleepy southern town in which the French Eclectic fanciers of Chevy Chase lived about as far out as any civilized person would wish to go. Chevy Chase Village, a tiny enclave with its own local police force, its private ambulance service and restrictive environmental legislation, was the same sort of ambitious speculation at the beginning of the century as Potomac is today. But the New Deal, the war, big government and then the cold war ensured its success. There came a massive expansion, far beyond even the beltway road which marks off the psychological limits of the city.

As the inner areas decayed, the outer ring took on a new, independent life of its own. Some of the biggest-growing shopping malls in the world were suddenly in places like Potomac Mills, which had barely existed a few years before. It was a pattern for America. Fourteen million people today commute from suburbs to cities; 27 million from suburb to suburb.

The question for the builders of Potomac is whether their fields of mansions will be left as high-priced detritus if the tide of the city's development begins to turn. For without the social cachet of a desirable address, these domestic architectural monsters are useless. Unlike many large English houses which time and fashion forgot, they are not even fit to be children's homes, or dormitories for the down-and-out.

Many would like to see them ploughed back into the land. Perhaps generations to come will find their remains, as we find the remains of Roman towns, and know their inhabitants by the splendour of their baths.



COLLECTING

Cards up the earth's sleeve

Alastair Guild on how the rainforests will benefit from a pack of cards

FIFTY-eight of the country's most distinguished artists and designers were recently invited to create a design for a "transformation" playing card pack on the theme of rainforests and animals. Next Wednesday their original artwork goes under the hammer at Bonhams as part of Friends of the Earth's Rainforest Festival, and later the designs will be produced as packs of cards for sale.

"It was a fiendishly difficult assignment," says Nicola Bayle, an illustrator of children's books, who has also painted watercolours for other environmental and children's charities. She designed the six of diamonds, based on the pattern of her kitchen floor.

For Sir Hugh Casson, the difficulty was in choosing a design for the two of diamonds that would "put across an appropriate, arresting message and, at the same time, look good hanging on a wall. A letter is always an excitement, and if it comes from a romantic place and looks as though it has been through hell on the way, that adds to the attractiveness of the message. I found an old envelope from my school days, sent from Papua New Guinea, so I could copy the postmark and the stamp. Papua New Guinea also seemed apt, as one of the world's most threatened areas." The envelope incorporates a "Fragile" sticker, and its seals are the diamond shapes.

"The ones I like the most are those closest to the true spirit of transformation cards," says John Berry, editor of *Playing Card World*, one of two publications of the International Playing Card Society, and an expert on the subject. "The suit signs, or pips, are where they should be, and

incorporated into the overall design. If it is cleverly done it is difficult to pick out the suits."

The first complete pack of transformation cards was published by Cotta in Germany in 1804, and is now available in facsimile. "The last transformation cards in the great tradition were US colour printed cards, published towards the end of the last century," Mr Berry says. "One of these packs recently fetched about £5,000 in a private sale. Most of those who have tried to follow the idea this century have allowed the pips to be displaced or distorted."

One of John Berry's favourites in the latest pack is the eight of clubs, by Jan Pienkowski, incorporating exotic birds on top of the suit sign. Similarly, John Jensen has adapted the nine of spades to look like a fish.

Simon Drew was dealt one of the toughest briefs, the 10 of clubs. He transformed the suit signs into ducks' heads and frogs. Gordon Benningfield has represented diamond shapes by spaces between butterflies, while Peter Cross drew hearts in the shape of the open mouths of forest natives, chimpanzees and tigers.

But John Berry's favourite is the ace of diamonds, by Lucy Willis. A vulture chick, mouth wide open in the shape of a diamond, sits in a ravaged environment, trees dying all around, while its parents hover overhead, vainly looking for food.

● *Transformation Playing Card Auction*, Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7, Wednesday May 23 at 6pm. For further details about the auction and other Rainforest Festival events phone Arts of the Earth (071-490 4670/490 5210)

MUSEUMS

Digging for victory

At Norwich they have an unfair advantage, as John Shaw reports

Archaeology is meat and drink to museums, and curators will travel hundreds of miles with sharp appetites to add some new morsel of knowledge to their archives or collections.

But Francis Cheetham is probably the only museum director in the country with a major dig right on his office doorstep, at Norwich Castle. His window overlooks the massive Castle Mall project, one of the most extensive in Europe, on the site of what was originally the outer bailey of the Norman fortress, with a settlement beyond.

With less than half of the dig completed, discoveries, mostly of pottery fragments, have already shown the town's strong economic links with the Continent in the century or so after the Norman conquest, with pieces from Germany, France and the Netherlands coming to the surface.

Mr Cheetham has spent 27 years at the museum, and is now close to retiring. "There used to be a much more inward-looking attitude in public museums than there is nowadays," he says. "I think the change is wholly good. We should respond to the public and be seen responding. We should be concerned with what is going on around us, and not as concerned with internal matters."

As director of the county



History on the doorstep: Francis Cheetham at the dig in front of Norwich Castle

museum service he is responsible for 17 different institutions in Norfolk, a wealthy rural shire on the verge of great economic expansion. But as people flood in with demands for more houses and better roads, its archaeological sites are threatened.

Mr Cheetham is not letting them go without a fight. The county has developed what he believes is a unique response, with an aerial landscape survey covering everything from prehistoric remains to 18th-century ruins, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of local flying clubs. The earliest contributions to the survey are Second World War photographs taken by the RAF. Over the years Cheetham's department has amassed an archive of 21,500 photographs, in which patterns on the ground and crop marks have revealed the existence of

numerous historic sites. "If the sites identified in this way are under threat from developments we would hope to excavate, because when they are built on they are going to be lost," he says.

Mr Cheetham is currently presiding over two new projects. He is opening up the prisoners' tunnel from the court-house to the cells — for some, the last walk of their lives, as public executions were carried out on the forecourt up to 1846. Less gruesome is the creation of a new museum in the court-house for the Royal Norfolk Regiment, previously housed in this famous county regiment will go on show when the museum opens in July, and should increase visitor numbers significantly from the current 280,000 a year.

But Mr Cheetham dismisses suggestions that going for

popular taste and high attendance figures would lead to a trivialization of the collections. "We have 2,600 teapots, for example, the largest collection in the world. That could be called trivial, but on the other hand there is a very serious side to it, because the history of teapots is the history of ceramics in this country. You get both popularization and sound academic inquiry. You have got to preserve a balance between them."

The original group of 600 was left to the museum in a bequest. A private collection was then acquired and, in a shrewd move, Twining was persuaded to put some sponsorship money into the project, now called the Twining Teapot Gallery. "That," says Mr Cheetham with a grin, "gives us everything — popular appeal, seriousness and sponsorship."

EXHIBITIONS

from the reserve collection. Stoke on Trent Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Henley (0782 202173). Mon-Sat 10.30am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm. Admission free, until July 15.

STEAMING: See stationary engines working all day tomorrow, plus a chance to meet "Harriet", "Sylvie" and big "John". Museum of Lincolnshire Life,

Burton Road, Lincoln (0522 528448), 2-5.30pm.

TAKING OFF: The story of transatlantic flight from the earliest days to Richard Branson's hot-air balloon crossing in 1987. Imperial War Museum, Oxford, near Cambridge (0223 833963). Daily 10am-6pm, admission £4.50, children £2.50, parking available.

John Shaw

CAMPUS

The world's their stage

Louise Chantal on the challenge facing Oxford University Dramatic Society

THE Tokyo Globe may seem an extreme alternative to the closed Oxford Playhouse, but Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS) has successfully toured to that 700-seat theatre for the past two years. So if Tokyo's Globe is possible, and all the world's a stage, why not the USSR, Hong Kong, Australia and the US? It was this thought that sent Richard Long and myself, co-presidents of OUDS, around the world for 12 days to organize this summer's international tour.

The tour is the showpiece of 12 months of change and restoration. When the university initiated the endowment of a visiting professorship of contemporary theatre by the producer, Cameron Mackintosh, it seemed to be the cue for action. Stephen Sondheim, the first incumbent of the new post, and his successors would be out of place at a university without theatre, drama faculty or any kind of production or co-ordination body for the legion of student shows presented here.

So OUDS has independently refurbished the Burton-Taylor Theatre, a 50-seat studio built in 1973 after a donation by that illustrious couple, and hitherto unable to secure a public licence. OUDS members have been finalists at the National Student Drama Festival in both 1989 and 1990, winning the company award last year. We have also initiated a New Writing festival, several international exchanges, and a regular series of professionally led workshops.

OUDS is touring with two very different productions — *Twelfth Night* and *Find Me*, a contemporary play by a London-based American writer, Olwen Wymark, which

portrays the anguish and joy in the life of a violently insane girl. While the Shakespeare can be lavished with its humour and fill the largest of processions, *Find Me* was originally a workshop piece, thriving best in an intimate space, and the tour provides a generous mix of venues ideally suited to one or the other.

On the pre-tour trip we whirled from press conference to theatre, from airport to embassy, interview, studio and theatre, conscious of having to pick up as much information about the cities, people and venues as possible to pass on to the company. We were mugged in New York, fed and fed up in Los Angeles, welcomed in Australia.

We also put forward the idea of a regular international student theatre festival, the first of which we hope to host in Oxford in 1991. Every group we approached enthusiastically, and we now have plans for the exchange of international theatre for several years, using OUDS as a bureau of contacts and information. Suddenly we had before us plans to send Sydney University to Russia, Harvard to Japan, and bring Chung Ying from Hong Kong to Oxford. The only thing that this tour now needs is £70,000, to enable us to get to the Bing Theatre in LA, the Melbourne Alexandra, and a little town in Fukuoka called Oki Machi, where I'm told the whole town is likely to turn up to watch us perform, and there won't be a dry eye in the house, although the audience barely speaks English. My money, if we get it, is on that being the highlight of the whole tour.

● OUDS can be contacted at the Burton-Taylor Theatre or 0865 793002

OUT AND ABOUT

Romans and Georgians on tap

Nigel Andrew explores the perfectly organized history of Britain's original and best leisure and pleasure city, Bath

It comes bubbling out of the earth hand-hot, it tastes as if it had recently been used to boil cabbage, and it built a city. The water of Bath, gushing from the only hot spring in England, even today seems to inspire a kind of superstitious wonder. Visitors to the baths may be drawn by antiquarian interest, and simple sightseeing urges, but thousands of them throw coins into the water for luck, and few can resist trailing their fingers in it, despite the warning notices everywhere (the water in the baths is treated, and might be a health risk).

Today's votaries are not, generally, in search of health. They come to enjoy the elegant amenities of what is still, despite three decades of municipal vandalism, a great Georgian city, a city of which the baths are the natural focus. It is, as it has been for a quarter of a millennium, a resort city, designed for leisure and pleasure — though its 18th-century planners could hardly have envisaged tourist invasions on the modern scale. In summer the city often reaches something like bursting point.

It was old Bladud's pigs who started it all. Bladud, a king of the Britons in the 9th century BC (son of Huddibras and father of Lear), taught leprosy and was banished from court. He became a swineherd, but his pigs too were afflicted with a distressing skin condition. One day they chanced on a tempting puddle of warm mud, had a good wallow in it — and were cured. Bladud tried it himself, found it worked on him too, and was eventually able to return to court. In gratitude he cleared the hot spring of mud and established a shrine to the goddess Sulis, around which, many centuries later, the city of Bath was to develop.

A quaint seated statue of Bladud (17th-century work) still presides over the King's Bath. Here, and in the now demolished Queen's Bath, both open to the public, centuries of invalids, hypocrites and pleasure-seekers took to the opaque, steaming waters. It was all pretty informal, not to say licentious, and when the baths began to attract a fashionable clientele in the 18th century, things had to change. Manners were reformed (up to a point) and the city was rebuilt on a grand scale as the greatest and handsomest of English spas, with all the amenities of polite society. In the course of this wholesale reconstruction, wonderful discoveries were made. The Roman city began to give up its treasures.

The first and greatest find was made in 1727 by workmen digging a

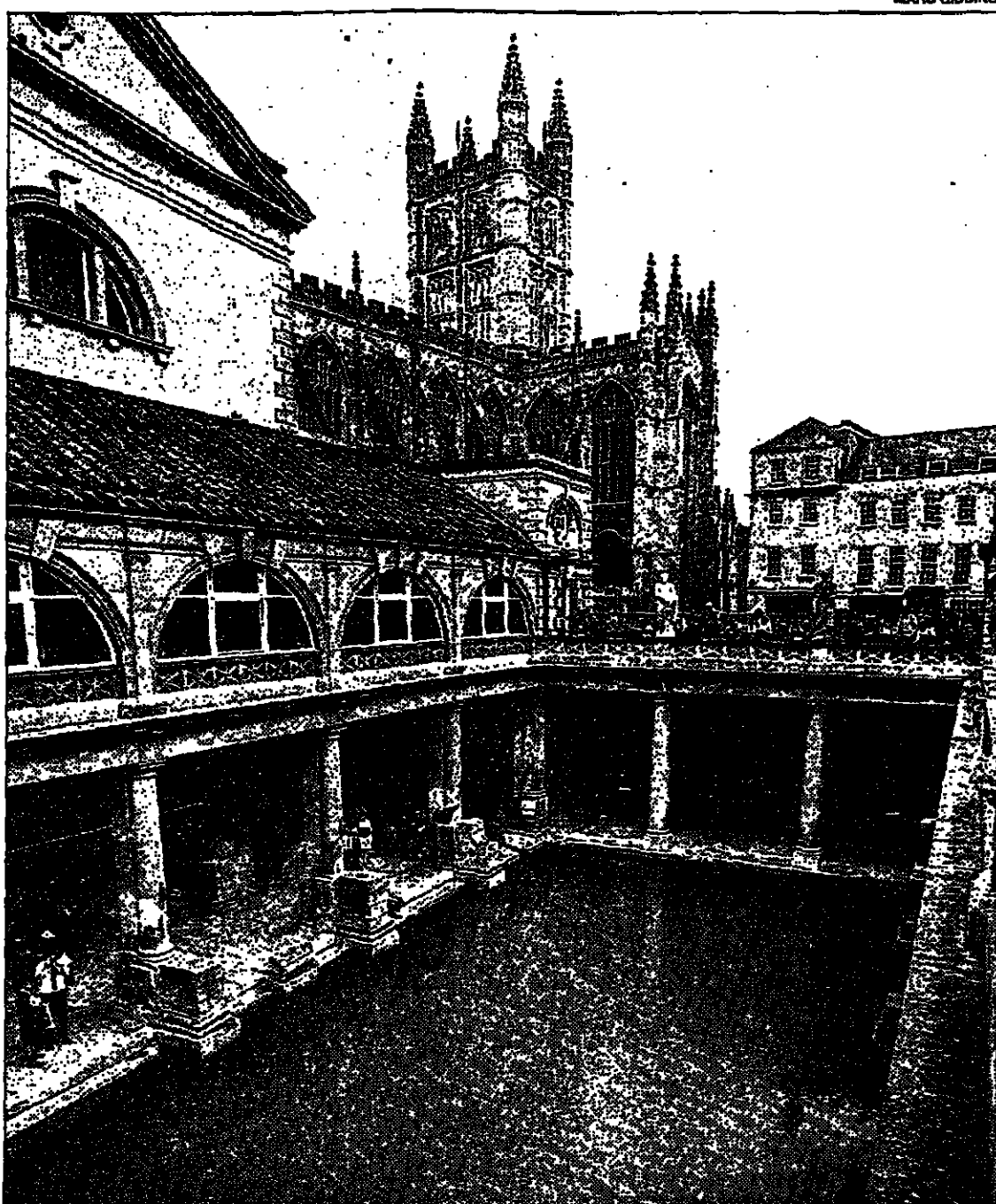
sewer trench in Stall Street. It was a life-sized head of Minerva, the goddess of the springs, astonishingly well preserved, made of gilded bronze. It is now the prize exhibit in the Roman Baths Museum, beautifully displayed in a dramatically lit transparent box. All the great finds which followed — the Gorgon's head pediment, the Luna pediment, the tombstones and votive altars — are exhibited with similar flair in this modern, uncluttered, brilliantly organized museum. It occupies the actual site of the great Roman bathing establishment which was uncovered in all its glory in a series of systematic excavations beginning in the 1860s. Hence it is some 20 feet underground, in a carefully modulated gloom, from which the exhibits stand out in eye-catching pools of light.

It is a museum of large gestures, in proportion to the scale of the remains. There are big, bold inscriptions — including an evocative quotation from a Saxon poem about the ruins of Roman Bath — a large, well-mounted relief plan of the ancient city, and a huge wooden model of the baths complex.

Complex is the word: the more the excavators dug, the more they found, eventually unearthing a gigantic Roman "leisure centre" with temple attached, nearly all of which is now on view, in various states of preservation or dilapidation. With the honourable exception of the Great Bath (which we shall be coming to), nothing is faked, no gaps filled in with dubious reconstructions. There is really no need for any of that, for these are far and away the most extensive and coherent Roman remains in England — if we leave aside Hadrian's Wall, anyway. The excavations and finds are displayed with a lucidity and verve rarely encountered at Roman sites.

The smaller exhibits include the temple treasures of silver and pewter and coins offered to the goddess, piled up in such quantities they suggest a jackpot spilling from the celestial fruit machine. Latin curses were also thrown into the sacred spring, and some of the deciphered inscriptions show a fine, timeless vindictiveness: "Docimelis has lost two gloves. He asks that the person who has stolen them should lose his mind and his eyes in the temple where she appoints." Docimelis must have been rather attached to those gloves.

The inscriptions on the tombstones and altars, on the other hand, are models of sensible Roman restraint, stoical, resigned to fate, emotionally detached. These monuments once lined the roads into the



Still waters running green: the Great Bath, unearthed in the 1880s with its Roman lead lining intact

smart resort which grew up around the sacred, health-giving, pleasure-bringing hot spring.

The centre of the Roman "leisure complex" was, of course, the Great Bath, the size of a modern swimming pool, in those days covered with a high, barrel-vaulted roof, now open to the elements. It is an extraordinary sight, and a quite astonishing survival: when it was unearthed in the 1880s, its Roman lead lining was found to be still intact. There is a charming photograph in the museum of late Victorian worthies standing around the newly reopened Great Bath, on which — a delightful touch — water lilies are floating.

Today the water lilies are gone,

but otherwise the Great Bath is very much as the Victorians left it, embellished with convincing statues of Roman notables, looking down on the greenish water from their places atop the colonnade. Visitors stroll among the columns, stand on the steps and peer into the murky depths, or lounge like sated Romans in patches of trapped sunlight. The baths, like the city itself, still encourage ease, and anyway it is best to take these great remains at a leisurely pace: there is an awful lot to see, with whole suites of smaller bath-houses opening off the Great Bath at either end.

There is only one way to round off a visit to the Roman Baths — with refreshment in the Pump

Room, that sumptuous 18th-century interior, presided over by the statue of Beau Nash, who did so much to make Bath what it is, or was. The water (treated) can be bought by the glass, and the Pump Room Trio might be playing — with noisy competition from more raucous entertainments going on in the Piazza outside. Beyond lies the abbey, Sally Lunn's, the Pulteney bridge, the Assembly Rooms, the Circus and Royal Crescent, and all the glories of Georgian Bath. The city has come a long way from that puddle of warm mud.

● The Roman Baths and Museum, Bath, Avon, are open daily (summer 9am-6pm). Adult £2.70, child £1.40.

OUTINGS: Forest festivities

The Rainforest Festival, the largest ever to be organized by Friends of the Earth and supporters, begins today for two weeks, with hundreds of different events from classical concerts to children's workshops taking place throughout the country. Proceeds from the festival will be used for FOE scientific research, and to fund forestry initiatives in Brazil, Africa, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. Today's events include a local festival in the Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham; a family picnic in Priory Park, Pritwell, Southend; children's activities, bands and music in the shopping precinct, Worcester; a concert at Stenage College; cabaret and films at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham; and a rainforest band at the Oxford Venue, Oxford. Tomorrow there is a sponsored family walk in the Malvern Hills and benefit concert at Campus West, Welwyn and Hatfield. In London tomorrow you can support the cause by attending the Rainforest Recital at the Wigmore Hall, listen to the Greenwood Orchestra at St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, or attend — in tropical fancy dress — the jungle hop at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly. The Barbican centre is organizing dozens of foyer events and children's workshops throughout the week.

Further information about these and other events taking place in your area can be obtained by ringing the Festival Office (071-490 4670/5210) today 10am-4pm, tomorrow 11am-4pm, weekdays 9am-7pm.

MODEL BOAT RALLY: National event with 10 classes and trophies to be won at the museum which houses the finest collection of vintage steamboats in the world. Panoramic lakeside views, refreshments throughout. Windermere Steamboat Museum, Rayrigg Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria (05662 5565). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adult £2, child £1.

NUNHEAD CEMETERY OPEN DAY: Annual opportunity to explore the 52-acre Victorian cemetery. Free conducted tours on the hour from noon, natural history walks, a genealogy desk, brass rubbings, children's activities. Nunhead Cemetery, London SE15. Today, 11am-5pm. Further information 081-639 1613.

SHEEP SHEARING DAY: Rare breeds from the farm and others from nearby flocks will be expertly shorn. Also demonstrations of spinning and weaving. Dorset Rare Breeds Centre, Park Farm, Shaftsbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset. Tomorrow 10am-6pm, adult £2, child £1.50.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS AT ROGANTIDE: The church will be filled with flowers and crops from the field and garden. A concert by the Cappella Singers today. Rogantide service tomorrow evening with the Bishop of Gloucester. Church tower open and light refreshment and a produce tent in the churchyard. St Martin's, North Nibley, Dursley, Glouce. Today, tomorrow, Hunts Court Garden open today 2-6pm.

BRAEMOR CRAFT SHOW: Variety of traditional crafts for sale and demonstrated at this 18th-century manor house in pleasant grounds. Braemor House, Fordingbridge, Hants (07257 270). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 75TH ANNIVERSARY MAY FAIR: Organized by the West Yorkshire Federation, a two-day fair with the emphasis on country pursuits. Bands, Morris men, vintage cars both days. WI marquee with a craft fair, exhibitions, stalls, demonstrations. Licensed bar and other refreshments. Nostell Priory, Doncaster Road, Nostell, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Today noon-5pm, tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child 70p.

WORLD OF ART DECO FAIR: Considered to be one of the best events of its kind for collectors of 1920s and 1930s fashion, furniture, interior design, decorative arts and ceramics, attended by 250 dealers from all over the country. Greenwich Borough Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich, SE10. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm.

EAST COAST BOAT SHOW: Two hundred exhibitors and 100 boats afloat. Many supporting entertainments, trade stands and boating information. Bourne Park, Wharfedale Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm, adult £3, child £1.50 or free if accompanied.

MEDIEVAL MAY FAYRE: 125 crafts sited under marquees with many of the craftsmen and women in period dress. Demonstration and supporting entertainments. Cranleigh Agricultural Showground, Cranleigh, Surrey. Today, tomorrow.

CARS AT THE DOCKYARD: Rolls-Royce enthusiasts parade their vehicles throughout. Static display of vintage and veteran vehicles. Also an art exhibition. Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 812551). Tomorrow 10am-6pm, adults £4.50, child £2.50, family ticket (two adults, two children) £10.

Judy Froshang

MOTORTING CHALLENGE

Along the Silk Road

MR MA, chief of traffic police for the Xinjiang Province, stood up to deliver a lecture through an interpreter on Chinese traffic regulations. It was our first morning over the border in the London-to-Peking Motoring Challenge.

He wore a white tunic with red stripes on the lapels, a cap of green and white heavy with gold braid and a pair of jet black sunglasses, looking like a contender high on the shortlist for the first available presidency of a banana republic.

The lecture started slowly. The Chinese drove on the right; so should we, and we should indicate right when turning right. It picked up when detailing the use of roundabouts: to turn left you did not go round, but cut across directly.

Then the occasion was lifted by Mr Ma's advice on driving technique: no eating, drinking, smoking or talking while at the wheel, and no driving when you were tired.

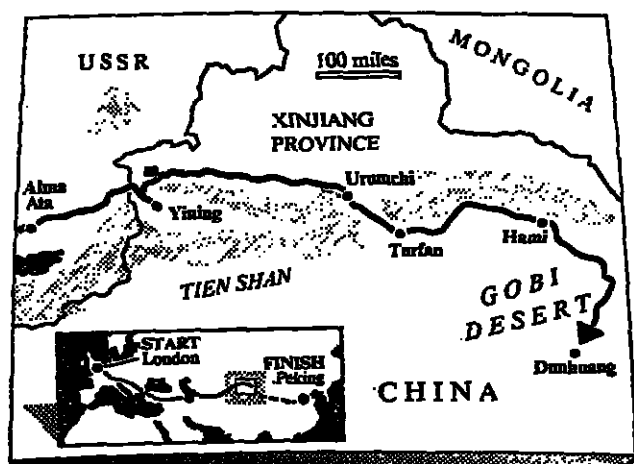
This final point brought ironic cheers from his audience, since when we had crawled into Yining at 12.15am the night before and had sat down to dinner at last, we were at the end of our tether. A two-hour delay at the border, because some Challengers had failed to fill in their customs declarations forms, was forgotten as we set of to lion dances and fire crackers. Refuelling at the petrol station, waiting until the last car was ready, took another two hours, but thousands had waited up to greet us as we entered the city.

Leaving the city the next morning at seven in the dark, we saw two men playing pool on the kerbside, the table illuminated by a single bulb overhead.

In a tight convoy we negotiated rough roads, crossed a ford, climbed the Heavenly Mountains, descended past Syram Lake and eventually reached Urumchi for lunch.

Driving out of the provincial capital was a revelation. We appeared to take an eight-mile tour of the city, through

New adventures befall the members of the London to Peking car convoy as it reaches China. Graham Rock reports



streets lined with excited locals; the crowd was estimated at over 100,000 and in places allowed a clearance of three inches on either side of the vehicle. Mothers held out their children to be blessed by the Challengers and at times eager spectators blocked the way.

Moving through the desert mountains, those stopping to take photographs were hurried along by traffic police. After another interminable fuel stop, we trailed into Turfan and sat down to dinner at 11.30pm. Turfan is the lowest inhabited place in the world, and the Challenge had reached its nadir. Revolution was in the air.

When Mildred Cable roamed this area 60 years ago she met in Turfan spiders with bodies as large as pigeons' eggs which made a crunching sound when they devoured their prey. It wouldn't have mattered if we had peeled back the bed clothes to find a nest of vipers, we would have happily have snuggled up alongside.

then drive without escort to be collected for refuelling outside Hami, our next stop.

The scenery was spectacular. On the left the distant remnants of the Heavenly Mountain range, and on the right an infinity of sand and stone, relieved occasionally by the startling green of an oasis.

The night sky of the Gobi Desert holds a million stars but the Hami Hotel beneath had none. No matter, like everywhere in China, the staff made exceptional efforts to please us and at dinner that night Mr Ma was toasted and cheered. We sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow", he always had been, of course, but it took us a while to find out.

Driving through rural China unaccompanied requires the concentration of a pilot landing in a minefield. The tarmac strip in the villages is no wider than an English B road, and is bordered by a narrow path on either side. In your direction might be travelling a donkey and cart being overtaken by a tractor with cyclists in both directions weaving in between. The other side would be equally busy, and there is only one way to negotiate a passage: slowly.

The Silk Road has existed as

a trading route between the East and the West for over 2,000 years. It is mostly metalled now, although there is a stretch of 40 miles between Hami and Dunhuang which is unmetalled. Road is a flattering euphemism for the hills, bumps, ruts, ribs, rocks, pot-holes and sand which we had to negotiate. At times a camel would have been quicker, but all the vehicles survived, although the 1939 BSA lost its sidecar when the mounting gave way.

One car which out-paced many of its more modern rivals over this inhospitable terrain was the 1930 Model A Ford, with American Don Saunders at the wheel. The Ford is on its second drive around the world, and in Alma Ata had won an automobile gymkhana in which Challengers defeated the local opposition, taking the first three places.

During our first few days in China a modern BMW and Mercedes holed their unguarded sumps, the chassis of the 1929 Ford Model A estate had cracked and a BMW motorbike was temporarily halted by a hole in a piston. The repair team of Roger Come and Andy Tallow coped with all of them.

Dust-clouds enveloped the cars for the most tortuous section of the Gobi, and when we eventually reached the Dunhuang Hotel the desert had found its way into the suitcases locked in the boot.

The major disappointment of our week came at Hami. Passing through in the 13th century, Marco Polo was delighted to record that visiting strangers were handed over to local wives by their husbands.

"The guest stays with his wife and does what he will with her, lying with her in one bed just as if she was his own wife, and they lead a gay life together. The women are beautiful and vivacious and always ready to oblige."

Just the sort of thing we Challengers had come to expect, you might think, but some customs have failed to survive the passing of centuries.

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EATING OUT

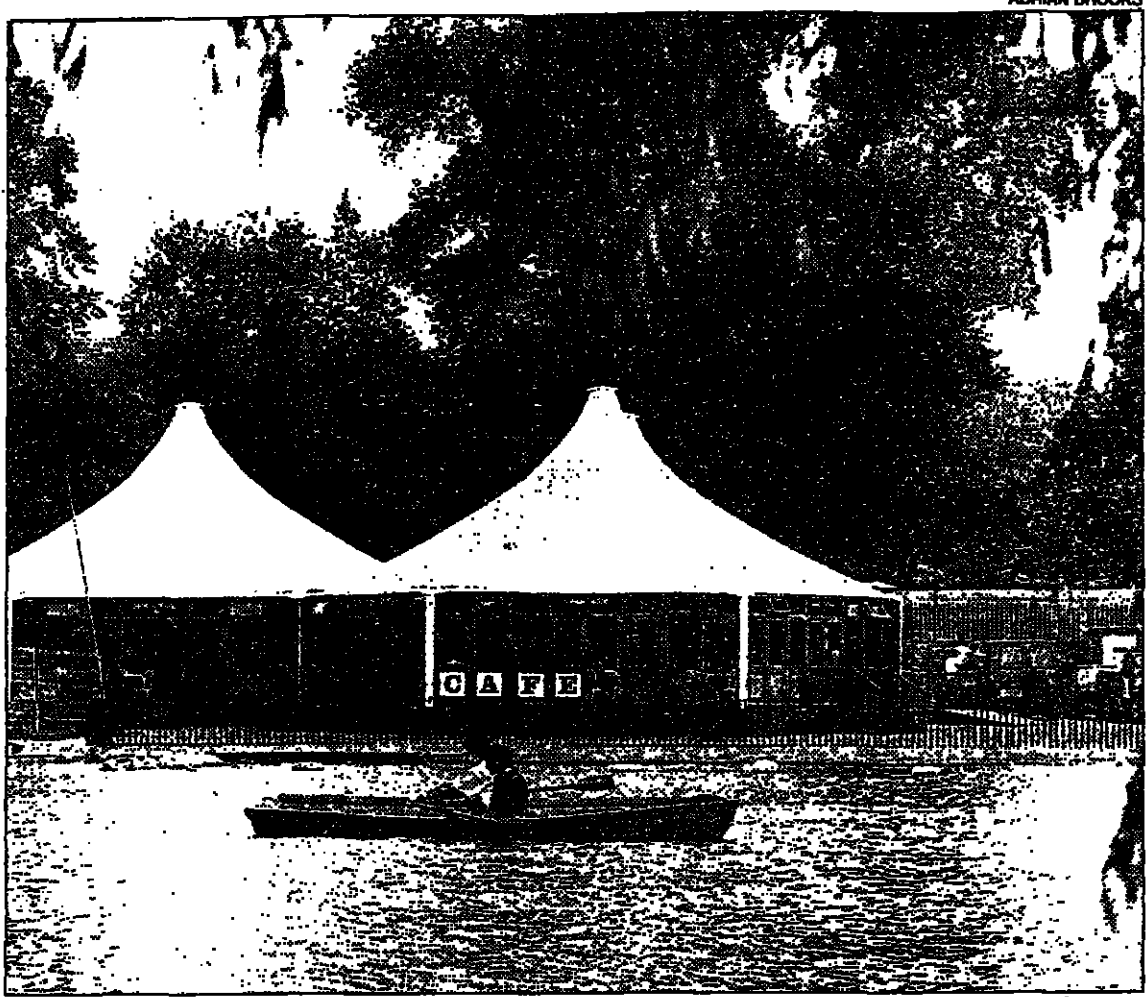
Feeding punters in the park

At Woolwich, the garrison town which is attached to south-east London, but which possesses the character of the harsh and precipitous towns on the north Kent shore, there is a strange Royal Artillery museum called the Rotunda. Strange, not because it's a living graveyard of ancient ballistic technologies, but because it's a temporary structure that's 186 years old: it was designed by John Nash, and originally erected in St James's Park. A few years later it was taken down and taken south east, just as the Crystal Palace would be after the Great Exhibition. And there it still stands, oddly festive given the belligerent gravity of the items it houses. Now, I think it would be fair to say that most members of London's designing classes are more familiar with Milan and Barcelona and Stuttgart than they are with Woolwich and its Kentish kin (Chatham, Gravesend, Gillingham); Woolwich is not a stopping point on the modern grand tour, though the Thames Barrier and the 500-yard-long facade of barracks are only the more obvious of its many attractions. (I can't recommend anywhere to eat.)

It strikes me, as being improbable that the author of the New Serpentine Restaurant is consciously indebted to Nash, though one never knows. But either way the new and temporary (or temporary-looking — time will tell) building on the south side of the dammed River Westbourne recalls the festiveness of the Rotunda. It is composed of conjoined pavilions with pavilion roofs. The initial impression is of a tourney, of outdoorsy gaiety, of summery lightness. That's what comes to mind when you see it across the water. Rather, those are some of the things that come to mind. Others include regret that the old Serpentine Restaurant — not that old, only 30 years — is about to be demolished. As I wrote last summer when that forthcoming act of destruction was announced, the elegant and, admittedly, unfashionable buildings are being made scapegoats for the ineptitude of the catering operation they housed. And of course, they are paying the price of not pretending to have been built in the 18th century.

The New Serpentine's building is laughably inferior, from a distance it is, as I suggest, quite seductive. But get close to it, and it becomes evident that it is not a work of architecture but of Exterior Decoration. Sit in it for any length of time and you become convinced that you are at some particularly tacky wedding. It cleverly mimics the

Jonathan Meades braves the greenery to assess Prue Leith's new attempt to raise the tone of London park catering



Pleasure pavilions: the New Serpentine Restaurant gives an initial impression of outdoorsy gaiety

claustrophobic airlessness of a marquee in high summer. When I tried to open a window I found that it was locked. I then appealed to a floppy-haired member of staff for some oxygen and he gracefully declined to open another, less adjacent window by an inch: any more air and he'd have to charge for it.

I should point out that I lunched on an overcast day. I imagine that the conjunction of a plastic roof, massive expanses of glass and unrelenting sun is going to cause problems: come July punters will be fainting like guardsmen among the weeping figs and bowls of lilies. This is a very green restaurant and most of the greenery looks as though it has been hired for the day; likewise the furniture — rude tables and white plastic chairs. It is a great pity that Prue Leith was not given the chance to do her stuff in the old Serpentine restaurant.

Ms Leith, gastronomic empress and owner of the enduringly successful restaurant that bears her name in Notting Hill, is here attempting to raise London park catering from its habitual level of stale ghastliness. The New Serpentine Restaurant bears the same relationship to all other park cafes as the Ram Jam Inn bears to all other motorway cafes. But in terms of utility the New Serpentine doesn't begin to approach that roadhouse. Its location may be unusual, but it is only minutes' walk from Queensway and South Kensington, both of which are possessed of numerous

worthwhile restaurants. It is against these that the New Serpentine must compete, for what is exceptional within the debased milieu of park catering is not — it goes without saying — anything more than ordinary outside that milieu. Further, Hyde Park cannot be counted among London's more notable parks: compared with Crystal Palace Park or Waterloos Park or Regent's Park, it is verily banal. The view from the New Serpentine is relieved only by the spire of Christ Church, Lancaster Gate and the despoiled Hilton: for the rest it's green trees, green grass, green water and primary-coloured pedaloos.

The restaurant's menu betrays its bet as if the place doesn't know who it is attempting to attract — the casual stroller suddenly overcome with the need for a sausage, or the purposeful diner wishing to feed on the view. I think the answer is both.

NEW SERPENTINE RESTAURANT
Hyde Park, London W2 (071-402 1142)
Lunch and dinner every day. £45.
Cheques or cash only.

And, as culinary compromises go, the results are not displeasing. Essentially what we have here is the acceptable face of fast food with some cutely cosmetic touches applied. Thus the sausages are not any old sausages, but well-made ones, meaty and herby; they are served with decent mash and a (predictably) over-sweetened onion chutney. Grilled (and rather burnt) chicken breast is also on the sweet side on account of its marinade of soy, ginger, cardamom and — presumably — sugar. This emphasis on sweetness was also apparent at the Ram Jam Inn, where I attributed it to the chef's sweet tooth. I may have been mistaken. I have a hunch that this is a cunning ruse on the part of middle-class restaurateurs to appeal to a supposedly proletarian palate, to the kind of palate that is used to sweetish bottled sauces, and whose owner is flattered by their absence from the table and by their replacement with home-made chutneys etc. Full circle really, for the flavours of bottled sauces must have derived from the questionable tradition of spiced fruit with meat.

Other dishes at the New Serpentine included an unremarkable one of smoked trout with horseradish cream, a creamy and well-flavoured courgette and mint soup, Eton Mess (which is a risibly tourist-board name for strawberries and cream), and sticky toffee pudding which was stodgy toffee pudding. The bread is first-rate and the wine list is short, inexpensive, unthreatening, but offers no halves and nothing by the glass — which, given the nature of the operation, is daft.

It is more than daft for this joint not to accept charge cards or credit cards; this is definitely more than daft, it is an instance of Sod-You restaurant, and potentially embarrassing to the punter. I've heard all the arguments against accepting such cards — and they don't stand up, for the simple reason that customers expect to be able to pay by such means. With mineral water we paid £35, including a decent tip for the decent service by girls with green pinnies and deficient English. With a bottle of wine two will pay about £45, neither a bargain price nor a rip-off. Me, I'd sooner spend the money on an away-day to Woolwich and Gravesend where, from the pleasure gardens at Rosherville, there roses of oyster shells high as houses and black as slag. Now, that was park catering.

DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices on this page are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of continental ones and so on. Prices change; they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

ITALIAN

Pagu Dinai

★★★
690 Fulham Road, London, SW6 (071-736 1156)
The only place in London specializing in Sardinian cooking and a good place to go into training for the World Cup. Much of the menu is composed of standard Italian stuff but the specifically Sardinian dishes are the ones to go for, notably a gusly saute of eel with tomato and black olives. The seafood risotto here is superb. Drink Sardinian Seltwater. £45.

Pizzeria Castello

★★★★★
20 Walworth Road, London SE1 (071-703 2556)
The best pizzas in London by a long way. Big restaurant, ranks of pizza ovens by the door, unitarian decor, fantastic bustle as though this was Naples itself. The prices are very low for cooking of such excellence. Drink Colle Saccu. The pasta dishes are perfectly OK but don't match the main business of the place. £28.

Al San Vincenzo

★★★★★
52 Upper Mulgrave Road, Chesham, Surrey (081-661 9763)
Tiny and original restaurant in a row of suburban shops. The Neapolitan cooking has nothing to do with the conventions of London Italian catering. Vincent Borporozzo uses good ingredients, and unlike most Italian cooks is not afraid to adapt trad recipes: veal stuffed with mozzarella and ham is authentically Neapolitan, the accompanying sauce owes much to French practice. Sweets are inventive, cheeses far beyond the usual dismal selection of dolcelatte and dolcecotte. £50.

Cibo

★★★★★
3 Russell Gardens, London W14 (071-371 6271)
Very exciting Italian cooking in a decorative hodgepodge across the rail tracks from Olympia. It vies with the River Café for supremacy among London Italian restaurants, not least because it has nothing to do with the debased traditions of that elegant backwater of the catering trade. The kitchen combines unfussy innovation with simply prepared classics, and reminds us that Italy is a neighbour of Austria. Some dishes are specifically north Italian, some might be found in starchy restaurants anywhere between Bologna and Brussels. Among the many excellent dishes from a frequently changing menu: raw marinated salmon, tuna and scallops; grilled

Asiago cheese with sweetened sweet peppers; marvellously light gnocchi with braised rabbit; omelette fried with garlic; beef with stewed caps; mulet with extra virgin oil and garlic. The vegetables are inventive. The portions are generous. The all-Italian wine list is generously priced and well chosen. £65.

Orso

★★★★★
27 Wellington Street, London WC2 (071-240 5269)
Fashionable basement done out to look like Milan or Turin of the early 1950s. Among the top Italian places in London. Most dishes are of Piedmontese or Lombardian provenance: sweetbreads with shellfish, chicken with olives and tomatoes. It successfully combines rusticity with refinement. The attention to detail is great. £50.

La Capannina

★★★★★
24 Romilly Street, London W1 (071-437 2473)
Chianti bottles on the ceiling, travertine oven warmers on the floor. None the less this is Italian rather than "Italian", and there is cooking rather than catering. Lovely risotto with porcini, carefully done calf's liver with rosemary, fine veg. Cramped tables, and grey shoes de rigueur. £45.

MARYLEBONE

Caravan Seral

★★★★★
50 Paddington Street, London W11 (071-355 1208)
Ridiculously carpeted Afghan joint whose cooking marries that of India and that of Iran. £35.

Martin's

★★★★★
239 Baker Street, London NW1 (071-935 3130/0997)
On the peg decor — take marble, "tasteful" pastel drawings — and one-off cooking. Some of the dishes are really gutsy, e.g. sweetbreads with tomato, garlic and basil sauce; venison with bone marrow and thimble dumplings; parsnip gratin; mushroom "gâteau". Cheeses and sweets are superb. £70.

La Muscadet

★★★★★
25 Paddington Street, London W11 (071-355 2883)
Dismal-looking bistro serving notably unimpressive dishes such as sweetbreads with Madeira sauce, boudin noir, fromage de chèvre, first-rate cheeses, cheap petits vins. £50.

JASON'S COURT RESTAURANT
★★★★★
Jason's Court, off Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-224 2892)
Accomplished new wave English cooking in a basement in an alley that is all too easy to miss. The place is marked by its business and by menu prose that would make a child wince. Chef Shaun Thomson worked under Moslemann at the Dorchester and, to some extent, he still apes his master. He is clearly his own man too. This is one of the rare London restaurants that serve haggis. Also recommended are beef ribs and the marvellous bread and butter pud. The wines are OK but a bit too expensive. £75.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE

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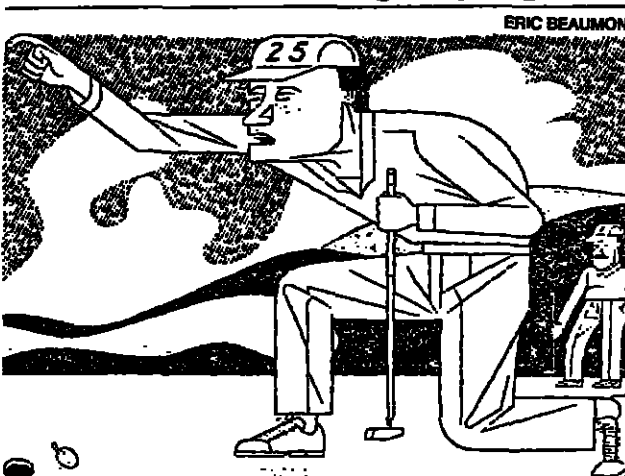
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DRINK

Hail the white pretender

For years wine merchants have sought a white wine alternative to the ultra-chic, ultra-fashionable and now ultra-expensive Chardonnay. This has brought various white varieties to the fore, including the zesty, verdant, Sauvignon, the intriguing, chameleon-like Semillon, and the racy, flowery Riesling. But all three have failed to match, in consumers' eyes, the appealing, buttery charms of the Chardonnay grape.



The latest challenger to Chardonnay's crown is the Pinot Gris grape of Alsace. I have always been somewhat sceptical about this sparsely planted variety's ability to knock Chardonnay off its perch. But my visit last December to the French wine-producing region of Alsace, where every quality-minded grower claimed it was their answer to Chardonnay, made me think again.

As with many grape varieties, no one knows exactly where the Pinot Gris came from. It belongs to the same family as Burgundy's Pinot Noir grape, and is thought to be one of the many mutations of this notoriously unstable variety, so it seems likely that Burgundy was its birthplace. In the Middle Ages it journeyed from France to Switzerland and on to Hungary. Here it was planted out on sunny, terraced slopes overlooking Lake Balaton, to the west of the country. The Hungarians call the Pinot Gris Szürkebarát, and I still have the notes made there in 1981 of a delicious golden glass of a '79 Szürkebarát.

Today it is found extensively in Germany, followed by Italy and, to a lesser extent, Alsace, besides other regions of France, Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia and even the USSR.

The Pinot Gris is less trying to grow than its Pinot Noir ancestor, but its yield is low and fickle, and it shows the same disconcerting ability to degenerate. Warmer wine-producing countries have also been reluctant to plant Pinot Gris because wines made from this grape variety have naturally low acidity and high alcohol levels. These are attributes that these countries' grapes already have in abundance, and which their winemakers try hard to control. New Zealand is the one outpost of the Pinot Gris

wine perch yet. Its positive, powerful style may well make it a perfect food wine, but for many consumers it is going to be an acquired taste. There were far too many quirky wines on the table for this grape to have universal appeal, and many had a bitter, over-extracted finish that I find unpleasant. What was interesting about the results was that although Alsace accounted for 13 of the wines and Germany just six, Germany, in my book, tied for the top place, and also had another wine in the top tier.

Germany's leader was the '88 Rülander, Auslese Trocken from Gundersloch-Usinger in the Rheinhessen. I loved its ripe, peachy, almost oriental spice and multi-layered palate. Equal first was the delicious, zesty, spicy-grapey '88 Tokay d'Alsace from the splendid Turckheim co-operative (Victoria Wine Company, £4.19. Oddbins, £3.99).

After that came four wines with little between them. The elegant, round, full spicy fruit of the '87 André Kientzler Tokay d'Alsace; the rich, toasty, tropical fruit and oriental spice of the '88 Grauburgunder (another name for Rülander) Auslese Trocken from Müller-Catoir in the Rheingau; the mature, rich, honeyed '85 Black Tokay d'Alsace (Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver St West, Colchester, carry the '85 Altenbourg for £7.60); and the rare '88 Hautes Côtes-de-Nuits from the Thevenot-Le-Brun (very limited stocks only from Bentalls, Wood St, Kingston upon Thames, £8.99, and Castlemead Cellars, Haringfordbury Rd, Hertford, £8.88) made from the Pinot Gris grape, but called Pinot Beurot by the Burgundians, whose heavily oaky, peachy style betrayed its Burgundian origins. Half a point behind was Hugel's '83 Tokay d'Alsace, whose smoky, buttery, oriental spice I also enjoyed.

It was a pity that one of Zind-Humbrecht's superlative Pinot Gris wines was not included, such as its '88 Tokay-Pinot Gris, Vieille Vigne (The Wine Society, Gunners Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts, £9.65). This amazingly strong, smoky, intensely flowery wine is one of the most delicious Pinot Gris I have ever tasted.

WINE BUYS

● 1989 Domaine Le Puits Blanc, Vin de Pays de Côtes de Gascogne Majestic Wine Warehouses, £2.79

● Hugh Ryman has struck gold again with the second vintage of this wondrously fragrant, flowery-musky wine. The '89 predominantly Ugni Blanc vintage is even better than the '88. One of the best bargain-

buy whites of the summer.

● 1989 Domaine Le Puits Blanc, Vin de Pays de Côtes de Gascogne Majestic, £2.79

Made mostly from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes, this is Hugh Ryman's first attempt at a red Le Puits. I love this wine's soft, rich, aromatic fruit and velvety palate.

FOOD

Robin Young looks at the timely arrival of alternative meat in supermarkets

One man's meat...

In a week when renewed concern about BSE has a lot of people worrying whether their meat might not also be their poison, it is reassuring to report that two of the supermarket chains have taken initiatives to make available to their customers meat that is produced with care and concern for animal welfare, health and the environment.

Safeway has been selling organic beef in selected stores (chosen because they were the ones which sold most organic fruit and vegetables) since January, having taken five years to find an adequate and dependable source. This month it has added organic lamb. Organic meat, produced in conformity with Soil Association standards, is available in 17 Safeway stores in London and the South East, and at Comely Bank in Edinburgh. Organic beef sells at a 35 per cent premium over the price of ordinary beef. With lamb the organic meat is about 15 per cent more expensive. To organically-minded customers, though, such prices are apparently no obstacle. "We simply sell as much as we can get hold of," says a Safeway spokesman.

Lack of availability and, he says, a purely practical background convinced Tom Gillon, the trade controller for meat at Asda, that organic was not for him. Instead this week Asda launched Conservation Grade beef and lamb in six stores - Watford, Nottingham, Southgate Circus, Burgh Heath, Farnborough (Hants), and Roehampton Vale. Mr Gillon hopes to have enough Conservation Grade meat - selected by the Pure Meat Company and "farmed and produced with care and concern for the welfare of livestock and the land" - to put in 20 shops by the end of the year.

Asda already has a unique livestock scheme, in which it controls the production of meat "from conception to consumption". It now includes 130 farmers with 10,000 cattle, producing about one-fifth of the company's beef requirements. That, and Asda's outdoor pig production scheme, could soon be converted to Conservation Grade production standards too, Mr Gillon says.

Among the principal differences between the two regimes are that organic producers attempt to do without vaccines and pesticides, relying instead on homeopathic remedies. The Guild of Conservation Food Producers - which was founded in 1983, and has registered Conservation Grade as a trademark and taken copyright on the phrase - regards the health of the animal as paramount and says the best scientific research should be utilized to ensure that.

They are, accordingly, willing to see animals vaccinated, dosed with antibiotics if necessary, and rid of worms and parasites with chemical aids, as long as those treatments are shown to take effect only on the animal, and not thereafter on the environment or those who subsequently consume the meat.

Similarly, while organic farmers will use only organic fertilizers, the Guild of Conservation Food Producers' rules permit the use of low solubility artificial fertilizers which will not leach into the water supply.

Mr Gillon started negotiations with the Guild after he saw the interest engendered by the Pure Meat Company's Conservation Grade meat stand at the Food and Farming Fair in Hyde Park which Asda sponsored a year ago. For him the attraction is that Conservation Grade beef and lamb can go on to his shelves at a premium of only 15 to 20 per cent, despite the extra six months to a year that is taken to produce it. Slower growth, he says, produces better structured joints and meat in which you can see the traditional marbling of intramuscular fat - once highly desired, but lately a victim of consumer insistence on lean meat.

The Pure Meat Company, as well as wholesaling to Asda and increasingly to other butchers, has two retail shops of its own in Moreton Hampstead, Devon, and Bath Place, Taunton, Somerset, and also operates a nationwide mail order business (0647 40321) which can supply Conservation Grade meat.

Recently I have been sampling some health foods ancient and modern. The new one is Quorn, a myco-protein derived from a distant relative of the mushroom, described as a healthy alternative to meat.

It has been around for a few years in made-up recipe dishes, but it becomes a much more interesting option now that it is sold as a "raw" ingredient for which the cook can devise his or her own recipes. I am not sure that I really like it, but I'm fascinated by it. In flavour and texture, as well as colour, it most resembles chunks of breast meat from a ready-basted turkey. The protein, which is entirely vegetable based, is mixed with a stock flavoured solely with natural vegetable flavourings, and bound with a little egg white to give it a meat-like chewiness and resistance.

Quorn is already cooked and needs no more than five to 15 minutes' cooking in whatever recipe you use it for. I have marinated the chunks, grilled and fried them, casserole them with wine, herbs and mushrooms, and chopped them in the food processor to use in Bolognese style sauce.

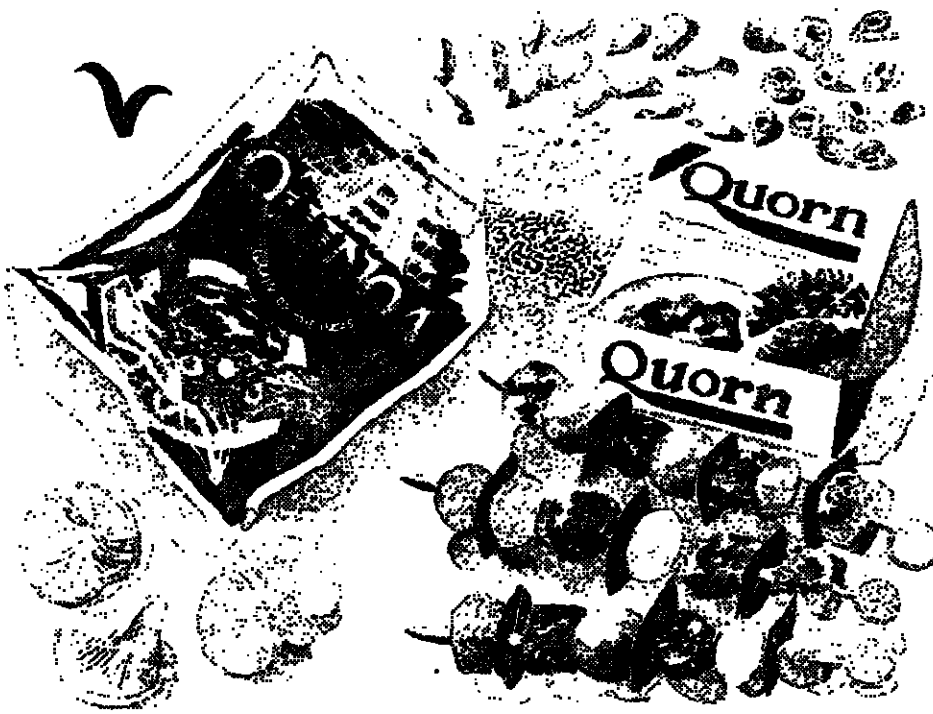
There are several characteristics that you need to take account of when cooking it. The substance is highly absorbent of colours and flavours. Marinating it in red wine leaves it pink throughout the cooking, unless you fry it thoroughly first and then fry it to a nice brown, as you would with a meat casserole. And it does brown well. If using stronger marinades such as soy sauce, dilute with water.

Frying the chopped mixture needs a large deep pan, as the tiny pieces have a tendency to jump and spit in the heat. Because all the juices in Quorn are water-based rather than fat-based - which is what contributes to its healthy, low-calorie image - it can produce a very dry dish, especially as a pasta sauce, unless you add plenty of liquid. It is also a dense, filling food, and a 250g pack (about 9oz) will feed four people. 100g contains 11.8g protein, 2g carbohydrate, 3.5g fat (of which 0.6g is saturated), 4.8g of dietary fibre and 86 calories, just over half that contained in cooked chicken breast without the skin.

To begin with, it will be available only in the London area, at a cost of £2.19 for a 250g packet. I am told that 90 per cent of the people who eat

Frances Bissell explores ways to cook with the mushroom's healthy distant relative, Quorn

DIANA LEADSETTER



Quorn are not vegetarians. Certainly it would be most unappealing to those who dislike the taste and texture of meat, since it closely resembles it. Vegans cannot eat it because it contains albumen. But for those who no longer eat meat on moral grounds, and those who wish to reduce their intake of animal fat, this is something to try.

Quinoa (what a pity I am not doing an alphabetical guide to unusual ingredients) has been around for several thousand years. It is a grass which grows in the Andes, and is now cultivated on a large scale in China and America, used for both its leaves and its seeds. These are very tiny and round, no bigger than sesame seeds, and cook quickly, absorbing up to three times their volume of water. The seeds contain twice the protein of white rice and fewer carbohydrates, and 100g will give 8g dietary fibre. It is absolutely delicious, with a flavour all its own, although not unlike that of sweet corn without the sweetness. It cooks to a pale, creamy green, and can be eaten hot, like rice, or mixed with chopped vegetables and vinaigrette and eaten as a salad. Use it as a stuffing for vegetables, as a filler in vegetarian burgers and loaves, or in soups. Like rice, quinoa can be cooked by the

absorption method, or in plenty of water and then drained. If you use the latter method, save the cooking liquid, which makes an excellent vegetable stock. Quinoa is available from healthfood shops and is imported by Direct Foods, 25 Hayhill Industrial Estate, Sibley Road, Barrow-on-Soar, Leicester LE12 8LD.

If you want to know more about vegetarian cookery and ingredients such as tofu, tempeh and tamari, the Vegetarian Society, a registered educational charity, has its own cookery school in Cheshire, the only one of its kind in the world. Evening classes, day courses and one-week courses are offered, for everyone from beginners to experts. Rosemary Billings is the cookery school co-ordinator: The Vegetarian Society (UK) Ltd, Parkdale, Dunham Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4QG.

Marinated kebabs (Serves 4)
1 packet (250g) Quorn
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp lemon juice
½ tsp ground coriander
½ tsp ground cumin
½ tsp chopped thyme
8 cherry tomatoes
16 button mushrooms
fresh parsley, mint or coriander leaves for garnish

Put the pieces of Quorn in a bowl, and mix with two tablespoons olive oil, the lemon juice, spices and herbs. Leave to marinate for 20-30 minutes. Brush the rest of the olive oil over the mushrooms. Thread the pieces of Quorn, cherry tomatoes and mushrooms on skewers, together with a bayleaf or two, if you wish. Place on a rack under a hot grill, and grill for eight to

Quinoa and mushroom strudel (Serves 4)

Use a mixture of oyster and shiitake mushrooms, if possible, a few pieces of soaked caps will add flavour to ordinary button mushrooms

6oz/170g quinoa
18 fl oz/510ml water
pinch of salt
3oz/85g butter or olive oil
½ lb/340g mushrooms, sliced
4 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
6 spring onions, trimmed and sliced
1 tbsp fresh chervil, tarragon or parsley, chopped
seasoning to taste
4 sheets filo pastry
2oz/60g lightly toasted pine nuts

Cook the quinoa in the lightly salted water, and when cooked, allow to cool. Put about 1½oz/40g butter or oil in a frying pan, and fry the mushrooms for about eight to 10 minutes. Remove and put to one side. Mix the tomatoes, spring onions and herbs with the quinoa and season to taste.

Unfold the filo pastry. Melt the remaining butter, and brush each sheet with it, laying each one on top of the other. Spoon half the quinoa in a line, about 3in/7.5cm from one edge. Spoon the mushrooms on top, and then the rest of the quinoa, smoothing it over with your hands. Sprinkle the pine nuts on top. Carefully fold up the pastry, enclosing the filling, and transfer it to a lightly greased baking tray. Brush on any remaining butter, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for about 25 minutes.

Here is a pudding in keeping with the previous recipes. If you like to eat puddings every day, it makes sense to look for low-fat and low-calorie alternatives to butter, cream and sugar. On balance, I prefer to eat puddings just occasionally and use the traditional ingredients rather than the ersatz. Silken tofu is one of those derivatives of the useful soya bean. It is a pale, creamy substance with little flavour of its own, but only 2.6 per cent fat against 48 per cent in double cream. It costs about £1.20 for a 10oz pack and, like the other ingredients I mentioned, is available from some health food shops.

Banana and rum ice (Serves 4)
4 ripe bananas
2 tbsp rum
2 tbsp honey or more to taste
juice of ½ lemon or 1 orange
1 packet silken tofu
pinch cinnamon or nutmeg

Peel the bananas, and put them with the rest of the ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth, and then freeze in an ice-cream maker or in a suitable container in the freezer, stirring it occasionally to break up the crystals and ensure a smooth freeze.

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Malcolm looked up. "That's what he said."

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"And what did he say?"

"He said, 'The man who marries my daughter will receive a prize beyond COMPARE.'"

"So what's the problem?" "I asked to see the prize first..."

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Holiday reading

Ian Penman

ON TOUR
The British Traveller in Europe
Edited by Michael Foss
Michael O'Mara, £14.95

The spoor laid by Michael Foss's traveller leads us back to an Edenic scene before the Fall of package travel, airspare for all, Michelin and chips. Foss's fastidious selection — of travellers' writing, rather than travel writing — recalls a time when we were more attentive to our social behaviour and etiquette.

On Tour offers a timely reminder of a world gone by, in which travel was a subdued exploration of self and national identity. But this is not one of those inoffensive gift-for-Auntie collections (how could it be, with the ever-reliable Boswell lurking in the cast?). Derived from centuries of travel and writing, *On Tour* registers a sensibility based on respectful curiosity for the differences of national etiquette (as Horace Walpole puts it, "something most dissimilar from our manner") — travel not as gluttony, but a gradual enrichment of sensibility.

There is some beautiful writing — plain, clear, clean, without unnecessary flourish or flavour, like this, from Hazlitt: "You see the figure of a girl sitting in the sun, so still that her dress seems like streaks of red and black chalk against the wall." Without the encumbrance of ingrained snobbery or "expertise", these are minds sharpened (not made ponderous or goopy) by their steps.

Patrick Leigh Fermor closes the book with a lamentation from the early Sixties, when already he foresees and fears the coming of tourism, in all its bulldozing arrogance. Tourism, he realizes, substitutes for the quiet enjoyment of other peoples, other lands, an entirely ersatz experience.

On Tour illustrates how the British sensibility can shed its parochialism and learn from the traditions of others. Part of the British malaise is that we cling to past roots which no longer nourish anybody's present. *On Tour* is not one of those cosy, embossed collections that merely spruce up our private prejudices; it may well make you want to consider anew how you look abroad. Required holiday reading, in fact.



Uncasy lies the head: companions in destiny Henrietta Maria, Catherine of Braganza, Caroline of Brunswick and Queen Mary

Double crowns

Hugo Vickers

THE KING'S WIFE
Five Queen Consorts
By Robert Gray
Secker & Warburg, £17.95

Robert Gray is the master of the concise, dry, and witty phrase, and this is what makes his dissertation on five of our Queen consorts so enjoyable. He begins with a warning from Shakespeare: "Cover your heads, and mock not flesh and blood with solemn reverence." I am not quite sure how closely he has followed it.

Gray begins with Eleanor of Aquitaine, my closest knowledge of whom was previously gleaned from Katharine Hepburn's sterling performance in *The Lion in Winter*. This woman of the south, or Demon Queen, married both the Kings of France and England, accompanied her lord and master on crusades, was accused of numerous affairs and other intrigues, and finally was locked up somewhere in England, literally at His Majesty's pleasure, for the King then felt free to indulge himself with his mistresses. Eleanor was set free after Henry's death, and had 15 years of liberty, and more problems with her sons and grandson.

Henrietta Maria's life was "enriched by Charles I's private virtue and wrecked by his public inadequacy", writes Gray. Likewise, Catherine of Braganza is presented as a "good, defenceless, unremarkable woman who marries a charming and powerful cad. She adores him, naturally, is abominably treated, of course..." In short Charles II reaped the rewards of a model husband while behaving like an arrant scoundrel.

With Caroline of Brunswick, the author warns us we are in for a dose of "sleazy sensationalism". He reckons that George IV and his insatiable bride were "two frightful people endeavouring, with considerable success, to render each

other's lives miserable". It is hard not to feel sorry for poor Queen Caroline, despite her obvious shortcomings: her longing to marry "the finest and most handsome prince in the world", only to be confronted by the wretched Regent, averting his gaze in disgust and demanding a brandy.

According to Caroline he "passed the greatest part of his bridal-night under the grate, where he fell, and where I left him". The author clearly had an interesting time, perusing the 1,400 pages of evidence for her trial: "...servants giving evidence of this same Queen's conduct in terms which will still shock, even in the liberated 20th century". Alas, Caroline was dead within a month of her frustrated attempt to attend the Coronation.

Queen Mary was a different prospect for the author. She, he informs us, "a big potato". He explains that this was a bizarre compliment paid to her by Field Marshal Smuts, who went on to pronounce that all the other queens were "small potatoes". The reference may have been lost on the Queen's grandmother, because she was far from agriculturally minded. There is the famous story of her stay at Badminton when she looked wistfully across the fields and exclaimed: "Ah, so that is what hay looks like."

Despite the beastly comments from the Duke of Windsor, shamefully quoted after his death, concerning the ice that ran through his mother's veins, there is little more to be said about Queen Mary. James Pope-Hennessy produced the ultimate masterpiece on her life, to which Mr Gray pays fulsome tribute. Here he gives us a nice précis of that most dutiful of royal lives.

I suspect that Mr Gray might have been rather good on Queen Alexandra. I feel that her last years have not yet been done justice, and there are one or two survivors who saw and talked to her. I insist he includes her in a second volume.

The war that is not a

A brave, but doomed, attempt to make sense of the conflict in Northern Ireland: review by Charles Townshend

THE DIRTY WAR
By Martin Dillon
Hutchinson, £16.95

This is a book with a profoundly resonant title. It vibrates with echoes of *la sale guerre*, the French war for Algeria, a war marked by the most pervasive terrorism of recent times, atrocity and counter-atrocity, and the systematic use of official torture, which ultimately brought France to the brink of public catastrophe. *The Dirty War* instantly invokes comparison with Alistair Horne's celebrated study of Algeria, *A Savage War of Peace*.

The comparison is no doubt unfair to Martin Dillon, but by any standards his book is a considerable disappointment. Despite its epic scale — its 500 pages are billed as the second part of a promised trilogy — it makes almost no attempt to grapple with the scale and significance of the Irish conflict. Its declared aims are more modest: "to prise open some of the issues, to unravel some of the stories which have become distorted by the propaganda of either side and to tease out the complexity of the backdrop to the war."

Fair enough, perhaps. In the circumstances of communal violence, sectarian assassinations, paramilitary organizations and clandestine "security" forces, prising open issues and unravelling stories are no mean tasks. And there is no mistaking the honesty and pertinacity — and sheer guts — with which Martin Dillon has pursued his stories. This is tough investigative journalism, and gives us state-of-the-art coverage of many mysteries, some of which have already consumed thousands of column inches, some of which are barely known.

But there is something missing. It is not just that many of the stories date from the 1970s and seem to be of marginal relevance to the 1990s, nor that even the vast profusion of characters and incidents supplied by Dillon leaves many other important cases unexamined. (The whole "shoot-to-kill" crisis is very cursorily treated.) The real problem is that as a whole this mountain of evidence is inconsequential. In one sense this is inescapable. Too much of the evidence is tainted, unconfirmable, improbable, or contradictory. One of Dillon's milder-mouthed characters bursts out at one point in the O'Doherty investigation, "He is a snivelling bastard. I friggin' well never did any of these things. How could you take the word of that lying bastard?" A good question. Dillon is trawling a world in which security forces and rebels alike are driven to take and act on the word of such people. He is as sound a guide through it as one could expect, but his conclusions are often lame.

prefaced by "we may never know..." or "perhaps some day the truth will come out."

In another sense the inconsequentiality of this book is less excusable. Readers of a hefty tome like this are entitled to expect more than a collection of ongoing inquiries. (Dillon is already updating the hypotheses he offered in the first part of his trilogy, *The Shankill Butchers*, published last year.) That is what the Press and broadcasting are for; books are for analysis, synthesis, reflection. In this book the issues are not prised open. The Northern Ireland conflict raises big questions, and it calls for more than a recognition that "the dirty war often generates more questions than it answers".

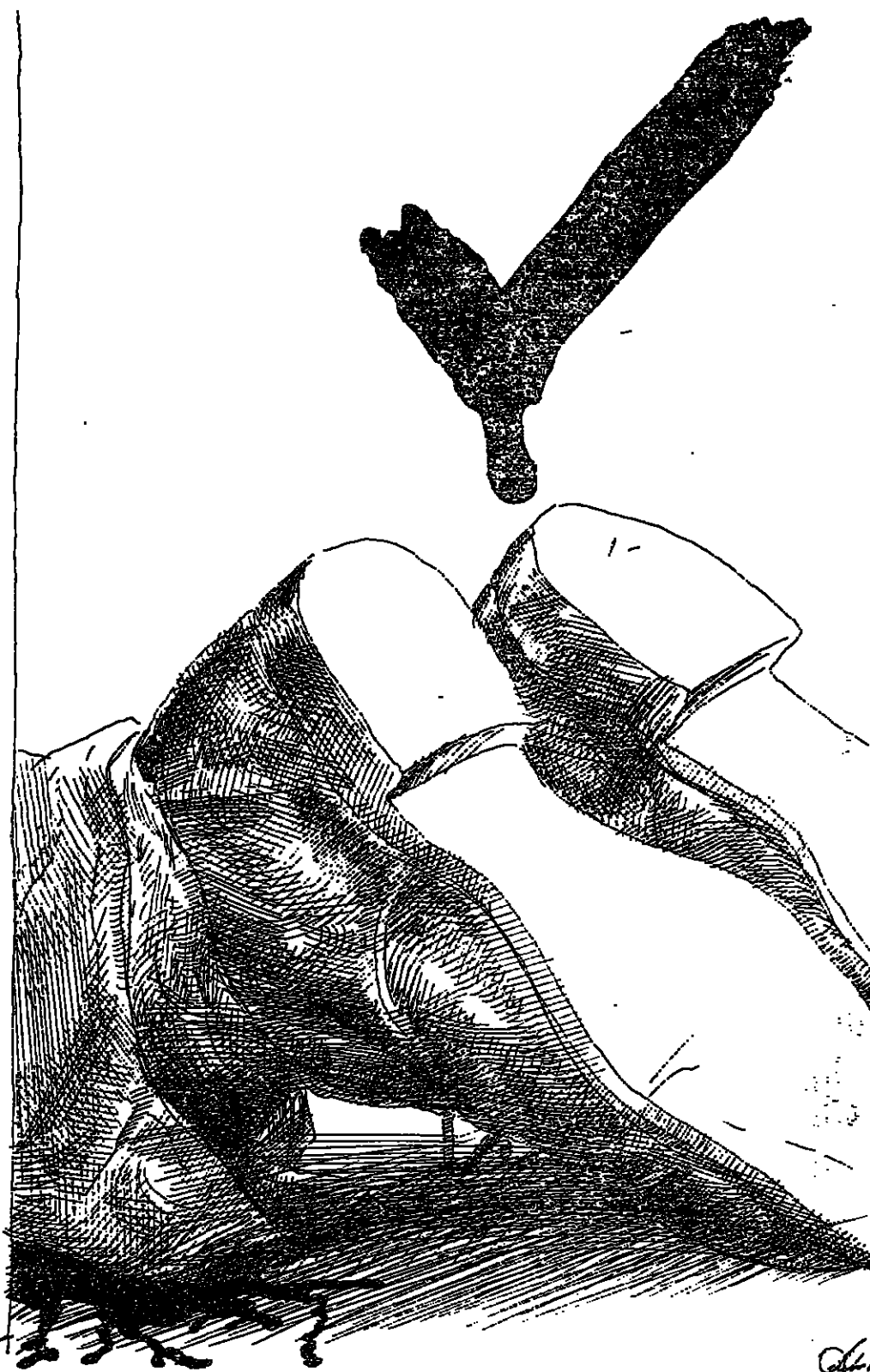
The biggest question is whether it is a war at all. To this the conventional answer seems to be that it is neither war nor peace: more than a crime wave but less than a rebellion. We do not have legal or political terms for it. We — or the Government — say that it is "an emergency threatening the life

of the nation", in order to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights, but cannot formally declare it to be a state of emergency. Things cannot be left like this. The way in which the conflict is defined is crucial to the relationship between "terrorists" and people, and the powers and actions of the security forces.

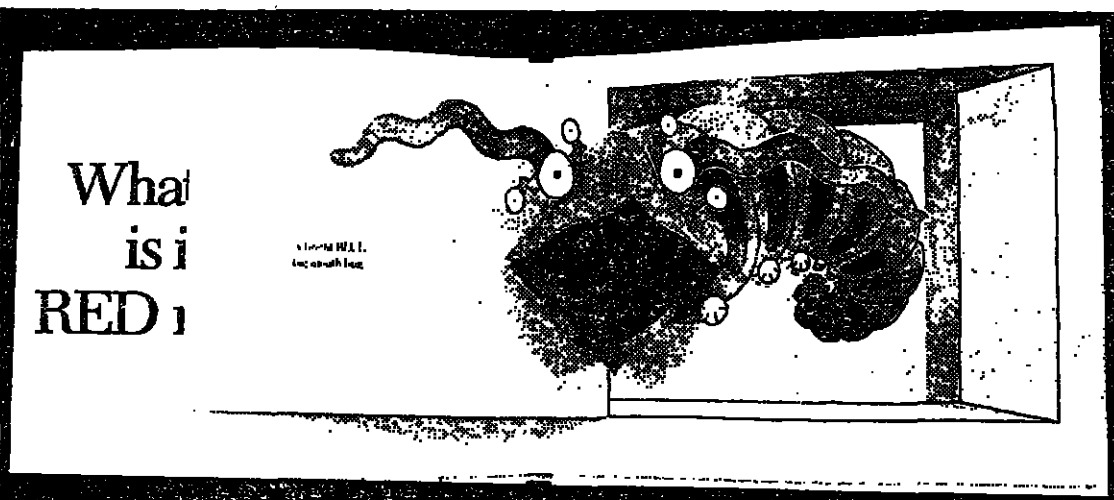
Any answer to this central question has to start from the contours of the conflict as a whole. Dillon's readers will get a very vague impression of this. He mentions that in South Armagh things are quite different from Belfast; he also points out that popular involvement in the conflict has declined since the 1970s, and that "terrorism has been institutionalized". Beyond these brief remarks, the reader will have to work out from the grim litany of explosions and "executions" the texture of social and political life in the six counties since 1969. The reader is expected to be familiar with the difference between Provos and "Stickies", or between the Irish National Libera-

tion Army and the Irish People's Liberation Organization. Such things appear to be merely incidental to their results in bloodshed and mayhem. We are offered the view that "it is a generally accepted principle that the use of agents and informers is a necessary, if not essential, means of defeating terrorism", without any attempt to say what "terrorism" is or whether it is defensible. Yet this issue is at the core of any public assessment of state policy. Since there is no formal emergency, special security forces like the SAS must perforce operate clandestinely. Is this in the best interests of the law?

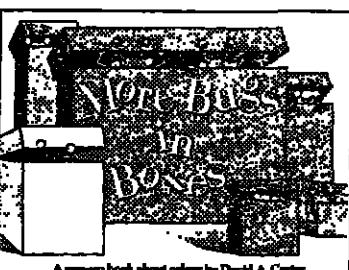
Dillon's treatment of the actions of such units as the Military Reconnaissance/Reaction Force, the Ulster Defence Regiment and the E4 section of the RUC, suggests that he does not think it is. Perhaps he believes that journalistic objectivity requires him not to make his thought explicit; if so, that is a pity. Fellow journalists like Duncan Campbell or Peter Taylor have not been similarly hamstrung. If the



Purple prose, green readers



Open your mouth and shut your eyes: plenty of colourful pop-up surprises for young bug-fans



CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

MORE BUGS IN BOXES
A Pop-up Book about Colour
By David A. Carter
Orchard Books, £7.95

The pop-ups keep on popping up, the flap-books flapping, and the fold-ups folding. Only last month an apparently new company, Messrs GoodBook, began importing a whole raft of novelties from Italy: board books with holes in them, like *In the Jungle* (£5.95), a panorama with one hole running all the way through, prettily called "a poke and play concertina book", *Where Do You Live?* (£2.50), and an ingenious "carousel book" whose pages slot together to make a three-dimensional scenic display, *On the Farm* (£6.95).

But the toy element in these creations all too easily supersedes the book element. Smooth, colourful production hardly excuses such texts as:

*The fearless rhino
Strong and stout
Sharp pointed horn
On the end of his snout*

or a picture book about vehicles, with holes where the wheels are, and much distortion elsewhere.

The more reason, therefore, to welcome *More Bugs in Boxes* as a pop-up which gets a proper coherence between the idea of naming a variety of colours, and the mechanism for turning it into an entertainment. As you may guess, the book is American — a successor to the equally successful *How Many Bugs in a Box?* — and, like that book, it mingles clever paper-engineering with an absurd but inviting text. "What kind of a bug is in the gorgeous GREEN gift box?" asks the author; and when you fold open the wrapping up comes "A loopy little LAVENDER bug".

Mr Carter doesn't see why a book for primary readers should be restricted to primary colours, and among the assorted containers that he produces we have a double-wrapped brown and beige box containing a bug-within-a-bug, and a fast-flying fuchsia bug, containing a sneaky, silver Spittle bug. You can almost chew the words as you progress from one surprise to another — and when you get to the end there is a last monumental pop-up eight inches high, to bring things to an appropriate painterly climax.

How to be a Beatle

Joseph Connolly

BRIAN EPSTEIN: The Man Who Made The Beatles
By Ray Coleman
Penguin, £5.99



Beautiful and dutilful: Epstein

The name is pronounced Epstein: from school days on, Brian was most particular about this, as he was about everything else. In this engaging and diligently researched biography, he is constantly recalled as appearing as if he had "just stepped out of the shower" or as having "just had a bath": this I take to mean that he always looked not so much dripping wet as downright smart.

Epstein was the eldest son of a prosperous Jewish Liverpool family whom he failed to please by leaving Oxford and deciding that he did not want to pursue law, the Jewish religion or business, but rather fancied the idea of Catholi-

cism and designing dresses. He attended RADA, but dropped that too. A reluctant homosexual, Epstein was seen by his mother Queenie to be "beautiful and dutilful" and by the marriage-conscious local Jewish girls (when word got out) as the "Immaculate Deception". The first thing (and one feels ultimately, the only thing) that Epstein felt wholly committed to was the Beatles, and he simply set about devoting 24 hours a day to making them "bigger than Elvis".

Epstein was from the beginning besotted with John Lennon (who, at the time, lived in Menlove Avenue) and tolerated his endless gibes, a mild example being Lennon's suggestion for the title of Epstein's autobiography: "How about Queen Jew, Brit?". The possibility of a one-off sexual liaison between the two has been endlessly debated, but in this book on balance rejected. Although none of the recollections come from the Beatles themselves, what shines through is Epstein's scrupulous honesty and commitment. He lived for his mother (he telephoned her every night of his life), the Beatles, Cilla Black and Gerry Marsden (of the Pacemakers); this was his family, and all, in their way, seemed devoted to him.

Alas, he became dogged by "Jewish guilt" and "homosexual guilt" and soon his life declined into a rather depressing catalogue of boyfriends on the make, and excessive drink and drugs. An overdose led to his death in 1967 at the age of 32, but Coleman very convincingly leads us away from the idea of deliberate suicide — his plans for the future were well known to all. One may argue that the Beatles would have been huge whoever was managing them, but Epstein's unwavering dedication — his innate desire to be a Beatle — made him understand both the group and the fans like no one else. That Brian Epstein was the very first Beatlemaniac is exemplified on the occasion of their first No 1 hit: he was starry-eyed. "Can anything," he asked, "be more important than this?"

Death and the

This is a week for those hankering after the exotic. With the exception of Edmund Crispin, these are all crime novels with heroes and heroines (professional and amateur sleuths) memorable more for their eccentric behaviour and characteristics than for the meticulous elimination of clues and suspects. The emphasis is on outlandish personalities, offbeat backgrounds, unlikely plots.

The characters, in order of appearance, are: an Oxford don, owner of an enormous raincoat and extraordinary hats; a tall, black beautiful daughter of a UN diplomat; a professional private investigator making a strange living in Nazi Germany; and a blonde rock singer involved in tales of night-club mayhem. An eccentric Englishman, a Berliner, a half "Senegalese", and a Czech provide a heady international background.

The reissue of Edmund Crispin's *Swan Song* (first published in 1947)

is a splendid reminder of the intricate craft involved in creating a superior locked room mystery. Crispin provides neatly observed characters, clues honestly presented, a denouement which is both outrageous and satisfying and a splendidly offhand opening which sets the tone for what is to follow. "There are few creatures more stupid than the average singer. It would appear that the fractional adjustment of larynx, glottis and sinuses required in the production of beautiful sounds must almost invariably be accompanied — so perverse are the habits of Providence — by the wilfulness of a barnyard fowl." Gervase Fen, casually brought in by a member of the company about to perform the first Wagnerian work since before the war, has to unravel two murders, to cope with the unpredictability of the artistic temperament, and attempt to encourage the course of true love.

A nat

First World War, and both books look back directly to the very origins of Irish writing in Mary Edgeworth's haunted *Castle Rackrent*. Mr Prendergast, fatally infected with nostalgia, is left alone with a silent gardener and with his memories, until young Diarmuid comes along and restores a measure of vitality. It is a less subtle portrayal of disintegration than Trevor's, but this was Jennifer Johnston's first novel (written in 1971) and his unimpaired.

Both write about worlds in which men (real captains and kings) are significantly absent. The "contemporary" stories collected in *Territories of the Voice* (*Virago*, £5.99) make a similar effort. The title comes from Moya Cannon's poem "Taom", in which she talks of the "small unassailable words/tha-

OKS

war

Mr Hall prefaces his first chapter with this verse: "Remember me when I was gone away/Gone far away into the silent land/For now I leave behind me a dream/That is for ever Greyfriars." This he cheerfully attributes "After Christina Rossetti and Rupert Brooke". From the outset, then, you are made aware that you are in the company of a man who has heard a different drummer from the rest of us.

That drummer was Charles Hamilton, alias Frank Richards, alias Owen Conquest, alias Martin Clifford, Ralph Redway, Hilda Richards, a man who on every day of his adult life wrote 6,000 words and once, pushed, 18,000 words. Three thousand characters flicker in this astonishing output, among them Billy Bunter, Mr Quelch and Harry Wharton.

This book, in form a biography, appears under the imprint of the Wharton Press, a publishing house which has probably never brought out a book before and perhaps never will again. Mr Hall, a retired accountant, lives in Wharton Lodge. So it is an impertinence to review this book, for it is not really a biography at all but one man's record of a very old gentleman who captured his imagination long ago and whose hold on it has not relaxed. You are on hallowed ground.

But there is a wonderful DIY air about the whole enterprise as figures unknown to literary London, clearly Mr Hall's friends, get wheeled on to pass judgement. A Dr Franglen says of Hamilton's

Housekeepers, bungalows, and deadlines

Byron Rogers

ISAY, YOU FELLOWS
By Maurice Hall
Wharton Press, £14.95

mother, who seems to have changed her name as the whim took her, from Mary Anne to Marion to Marianne, she was "a determined social climber".

Titanic struggles, again hitherto unknown, are mentioned. "We now reach a point where controversy was to break out; it has continued without slackening to this day." This refers to the occasion when a man called John Nix Pentelow, editor of the *Magnet*, wrote a story under one of Hamilton's many aliases and airily killed off one of his characters in the course of it.

Such substitute stories were not uncommon, as Hamilton virtually wrote the whole of the *Magnet* and the *Gem*; when he caught a cold the

fortunes of two weekly mass circulation magazines hung in the balance. A cloud descended on the Amalgamated Press. But none of the substitute writers had dared kill off the *dramatis personae* before.

You must forgive the metaphors and the short sentences; they tend to enter the blood when a man reads Frank Richards. Glints of suspicion enter the eyes; clouds settle on faces. Nobody ever says anything; they roar or thunder or, in the case of Bunter, ejaculate. Mr. Hall has drunk deeply of this well, for the paragraphs spring full-formed like Athena from his skull (classical allusion was Frank's great joy).

"William George Bunter was now ready to stretch his legs. Would they be strong enough to lift this leviathan into the sky and into the annals of schoolboy fiction?" That's metaphor for you, boy. And this again when, aged 20, he first meets Richards/Hamilton (Chapter 15. I meet Charles Hamilton), "a little black skull cap on his head, crumpled corduroy trousers, dark

dressing gown, pipe in hand, an aura of his indefinable greatness wrapped around him like an invisible cloak".

There is none of the weariness here of modern criticism and literary reviewing; Mr Hall does not wait to see what his neighbour thinks. Fashionable opinions and prizes are elsewhere, and you are with him in a cosy bunker dedicated to the memory of a strange gentleman about whose life we know little more than we do about Shakespeare's.

Who, when he needed to think, sat in a boat (and had a pond, complete with boat, set into the garden of his bungalow); who never revealed what school he himself went to; who loved the Classics and translated "Waltzing Matilda" and "The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze" into Latin. As for the rest it was just housekeepers, more bungalows, and deadlines.

But the structure of the book is the author's pilgrimage. After his hero's death Mr Hall finds in his study the boys' magazines which Hamilton had kept (he had to buy his own copies from a newsagent), issues out of the Golden Age but "tattered, often torn and loosely tied with string in little bundles". And it is clear from their condition that they had not meant that much to Hamilton.

Yet even this does not dent his faith. As retirement finally comes, an accountant can record his tribute to a man who made him happy when he was young. You do not often come on books like this.



Jacobitism takes to the streets: anti-Hanoverian riots in 1716

Flourishing times

Jonathan Clark

JACOBITISM AND THE ENGLISH PEOPLE, 1688-1788
By Paul Kieffer Monod
Cambridge, £30

A labourer from Tewkesbury, William Colley, said in 1691: "There is no king in England but James. And where is one for King William there is two for King James in England if there were occasion." Nor did such attitudes obligingly fade away. Even in 1746 Jeffrey Butterley, a shoemaker from Bury in Lancashire, risked dire penalties by declaring that "King George has no more right to the Crown than you or I have and that King James had the only right thereto. And you will see he will come to the Throne and then we shall have flourishing times."

Such attitudes were not just the high theory of Oxford common rooms: they were vividly proletarian. And they lasted: across the country, for half a century after the Revolution of 1688, mobs rioted to cries of "No Hanover". "A Restoration, a Stuart, High Church and Ormonde", "No King George, King James the Third", "Down with the Rump", "Down with the Roundheads". Memories were long; repression was vicious and bloody. This is the first scholarly book to recover the concrete detail of daily life in an England torn by principled conflict.

It finds its evidence for Jacobitism not in political conspiracies and diplomatic manoeuvres, not even in ideology: these were for the few. Monod looks instead to "words, images, forms of behaviour" at local level — propaganda, commemorative artefacts, riots, the seditious outbursts of plebeians, the social rituals of the gentry, the social profile of those who rebelled.

Far from being the preserve of a few romantic or reactionary elitists, Jacobitism was widespread throughout society, and pointed towards proletarian subversion as much as stable hierarchy. Far from being anti-modernist, Jacobites tried — like George III, Queen Victoria, the presidents of many republics and even the Communist Party of the Soviet Union — to promote unity by dignifying authority and magnifying its mythic component. The Stuarts sought to do this in one way, the Hanoverians in another. James II and George IV were almost equally inept at this task: it was really thanks to Victoria that all lines converged in Walter Bagehot.

Modern sensibilities then subtly distorted the nature of Jacobitism. Nineteenth-century Tories saw its hard realities through the lens of Romanticism; 19th-century Whigs turned sturdy native forms into threats to masculinity and Englishness, and so, through guilt by association, made Jacobitism the enemy of modernity.

A doctrine so morally depraved and politically extreme, Whigs implied, could only be the property of a small minority. But, replied the Romantics, what a splendid, dashing minority!

Between them, Romantics and revolutionary modernists established a mental framework in which Jacobitism could only look silly, or insignificant, or both. It was as if historians in the 22nd century were so preoccupied by issues of gender and environment that they squeezed socialism off their map of the 20th century. Was it not mere Utopian fantasy? Could it ever have worked?

Yet grown men still become apologetic about Jacobitism. Writing in *The Independent* recently, Hugh Trevor-Roper railed against what he imagined were the opinions of his former colleagues at Peterhouse, that "the Revolution of 1688 was a crime, the Enlightenment a disaster"; that some had acclaimed the Old Pretender as really King James III; that, in some unexplained way, these views went with beliefs "that the 'wrong side' won the First World War and that Hitler should have been allowed to win the Second".

There is no future in arguing with anyone persuaded by a *non sequitur* balanced on a fantasy. But it is important that we see that the recovery of quite different forms of thought and commitment in past centuries is still profoundly offensive to at least one present-day outlook that seeks to appropriate the title "liberal".

Historians must beware: they are playing a dangerous game when they raise the standard of rebellion against latter-day Whig tyranny.

Friend or foe?

William Jackson

THE RELUCTANT ENEMIES
By Warren Tute
Collins, £16

The long-standing love-hate relationship between the English and the French, when coupled with the more recent internal divisions that have plagued France since the Revolution, make her our uncomfortable and often misunderstood neighbour. Never was this more so than during the undeclared war between us that was waged with such bitterness from the Franco-German armistice in July 1940 until the assassination of Admiral Darlan on Christmas Eve 1942.

It was largely a naval war, and who better to re-probe the events of that difficult period in Anglo-French relations than Warren Tute? Historian and historical novelist, he served in the Royal Navy from 1932 to 1946, but so loved France that he retired to a small village in south-west France, where he died before this book was published, in what was once called *la France anglaise*. He was an Eisenhower's staff in Algiers, where Darlan was shot down by Bonnier de la Chapelle.

Tute doubts whether we will ever understand each other. Divided as by language, thought processes, and the antagonisms of history, neither has any real conception of the values, ways of life, and spiritual texture of the other. This does not mean that we cannot be good neighbours; but understanding each other is quite another matter.

In 1940 understanding collapsed completely. The failure of the French to fight on from their North African empire was incomprehensible to us. The wish of the majority of French soldiers and sailors to go home was understandable, but the attitude of the French higher commands was invariably misapprehended in London.

Tute's account of the unfortunate clashes between a beleaguered Britain and a prostrate France brings out the full flavour of the

misapprehensions, misunderstandings and, indeed, duplicity on both sides. The destruction of the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir, the Dakar fiasco, the British invasion of Syria, and the subsequent seizure of Madagascar, all led to the final denouement of the Anglo-American landings in French North Africa, which triggered Hitler's occupation of the whole of France, the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon, and the death of Darlan.

The most telling parts of this book are the well-structured pen pictures of the interaction of the many complex personalities involved. Darlan as head of the French armed forces and Pétain's heir apparent plays the villain of the piece. Scion of a long-established naval family — his great grandfather was killed at Trafalgar in the Redoubtable, from the foretop of which the shot was fired that fatally wounded Nelson — he was overtly anti-German, but intuitively anti-British, and a man to whom political intrigue came naturally.

The tragedy of Tute's story lies, as he says, in the way in which the great majority of the French people willingly gave their allegiance to a dotard, who gravely misled them, not, as they claim, for the sake of honour, but because of a lamentable lack of moral courage. Only after the American entry into the war and Hitler's defeat before Moscow did the Resistance become a hesitant reality.

This book, lightly and skilfully written, is a fitting epitaph to Warren Tute's literary career.

One Wisden (1957), slightly foxed; Gunn and Moore bat with which author made top score (111*) for Connaught House School versus Hill Brow; seven-seat bench formerly in Mound Stand, possibly sat on by author, mother, and younger brother, Middlesex versus Lancs c. 1953, structurally sound though could do lack of paint; one jock strap, MCC colours, specially designed by David Cull, still in use.

Not much of a job lot to the really serious collector of cricketiana, but all my own. Any self-respecting household should be able to boast something similar, for the hoarding of things to do with cricket is, as this book so vividly demonstrates, an essential part of the English character. If a chap can't keep a straight bat, he'll never bowl a maiden over.

"Maybe Duleepsinhji's cap is something that should never be worn out of doors," say the authors, in a brilliantly coded message accessible only to those who have been well and truly suckered by the world's second greatest game, "but collecting is a happy joyous thing".

It is reassuring to learn that the greatest collectors, with the obvious exceptions of Barlow, Rockley Wilson, and Appleby, are players of "only modest ability". Those that can, do; those that can't, collect. And what a cornucopia of collectibles there is to choose from: a picture of W. G. Grace walking out to bat made entirely from cigar-sticks, an 1898 cast-iron match cutter featuring Ranjitsinhji.



Cigar cutter, with Ranjitsinhji

A happy joyous thing

Tim Heald

THE WISDEN BOOK OF CRICKET MEMORABILIA
By Marcus Williams and Gordon Phillips
Lennard Publishing, £25

Warner's *England v Australia 1911-12* bound in kangaroo. J. M. W. Turner's "Wells Cathedral with a Game of Cricket", and Pissarro's "Cricket at Bedford Park". The Turner is at Port Sunlight, but the Pissarro is in Paris. French cricket should let us have it back. A case for Mr Palumbo?

Happily most cricketing collectibles come cheaper than these. A team of 12 enamelled batten label badges for Surrey issued by Robertson, the jam people, went for a mere £140 at Phillips in 1986; an incomplete version of Lampough's Gold Medal Model Cricket realised £75 at Christie's a year later; a silver marine-type despatch inkwell, presented by Lord Ashton, President of Lancashire CCC to the captain, Lt Col L. Green, to commemorate the county's third successive championship, fetched only £260 in the same sale as the 12 Robertson not-quite-goliwogs.

So the field is wide open. You could have got the ball that Clarry Grimmet used when taking nine for 74 against Cambridge in 1934 for £110. I think I know when I am on to a good thing. Item: one MCC jock strap. Do I hear ten guineas?

PAPERBACKS

he course of true love

CRIME

Lisanne Radice

SWAN SONG

By Edmund Crispin

Mysterious Press, £3.50

PENNY PINCHING

By Susan Moody

Penguin, £3.50

MARCH VIOLETS

By Philip Kerr

Penguin, £3.99

SINS FOR FATHER

KNOX

By Josef Skvorecky

Faber, £3.50

In *Penny Pinching*, six foot tall Penny Wanawake, in California with her jewel thief lover, doesn't care for the coincidence that the

body on the terrace could be that of her twin sister, nor that her diplomat father and his friend seem to have suddenly disappeared. Strange corpses and dubious political shenanigans linked to past scandals complicate the search for the missing pair as Susan Moody presents a witty, offbeat plot enriched by such notable characters as the 200lb Eve. "Although she sat quite still there seemed to be a lot of emotions surging around inside her massive body, pressing against breast and thigh and upper arm, eager to emerge and start causing trouble."

March Violets is the debut of crime writer Philip Kerr, and I hope the first of many. The setting is 1930s Berlin at the time of the Olympics where the hero, ex-cop and now private eye, Bernie Gunther, has more work than he can manage — missing persons is a booming business in Hitler's Germany. As a change he is intrigued to

be asked to find the murderers of a German industrialist's daughter and her husband, as well as a stolen diamond necklace. Philip Kerr not only provides a wonderfully sharp and satirical Philip Marlowe in his laid-back, vice-cracking Berlin shamus, but also a plot that is highly original. His descriptions of Nazi Germany catch the full flavour of a society uneasily aware of what has been unleashed but comforting itself in a blind pretence that times will improve.

The Josef Skvorecky offering is a con. The publishers imply on the cover that we are about to be entertained by the lugubrious antics of his previous hero, the skin-chasing Lieutenant Boruvka. Instead the reader is presented with travelling night-club singer Eve Adam in a series of somewhat tired adventures loosely based on a skit on Father Knox's "Detective Story Decalogue", an intriguing concept which fails to come off.

ion of outsiders

Brian Morton

THE SILENCE IN THE GARDEN

By William Trevor

Penguin, £4.99

diminish Caesars". Its purpose is unabashedly feminist and the best of the stories — Anne Devlin's "Naming the Names", Eithne Strong's "The Bride of Christ", Jennifer Johnston's "Trio", and Margaret Barrington's "Village Without Men" — are unassailably compact and powerful, very much in the tradition of Irish short story writing. However, it's hard to see Margaret Barrington and Elizabeth Bowen as "contemporary" writers. It's more disturbing to see Bowen,

by far the best short story writer in English after James, Hemingway and Joyce, and a confident modern exponent of Edgeworth's "big house" material, sink further into an undeserved status as an "anthology" writer, adaptable to half a dozen publishers' rubrics.

Who Ever Heard of an Irish Jew? (Corgi, £2.99) is the title of David Marcus's collection of stories (the most famous Irish literary character of modern times was just such a hippogriff, like Joyce's Paddy Bloom in *Ulysses*, Monty Levinson is a commercial traveller, but with a mind that works rather more like Molly Bloom's. "Monty's Monday" is a miniature Bloom's day of lust and evasion, beautifully gauged. "Ancestral Voices", "St Patrick was a Jew?" and the title

story examine what it means to be a special kind of insider in a nation of outsiders.

Bernard MacLaverly writes brilliantly about loneliness and alienation in *The Great Profundo and Other Stories* (Penguin, £3.99). His "Death of a Parish Priest" sits intriguingly alongside Marcus's more tongue-in-cheek "My Kyak and the Coming of the Messiah" as a footnote to Joyce's "The Dead". In "Words the Happy Say" a fragment of Emily Dickinson and calligraphy draw two lonely people together. In "Across the Street" it is music that forges the link, wind and breath making connections where touch will not. In the title story, a sword swallower, once immortalized by Matisse in a sequence of lithographs as *L'Avaleur de Sabres*, is reduced to performing for the drunken students of the Eccentrics Genuine Club, his art reduced to freshfacedness, a repeated illusion of wishful self-destruction. The ultimate loneliness.

Fans of the late Margery Allingham will remember Miss Jessica Palindrome, heroine of *More Work for the Undertaker*, who wore a cardboard hat and lived off sheep's head broth and wild garlic gathered from bomb sites. In her own quiet way she was caring for the earth's resources; but today's town dwellers need a more comprehensive and up-to-date guide to How to be Green.

Unfortunately, Bernadette Valley's book reads more like *Woman's Own* household hints, only written for the under-sixes. Nor is it exclusively concerned with green projects — perhaps having to find a whole 1,001 green activities to save the planet was too great a task. So here you are told to relax, should you suffer from stress, to move your fridge when you clean your kitchen, and to keep your car brakes in working order (driving a car, very green).

Being green involves weighing up conflicting imperatives, but calculating resource use is not Valley's forte. She tells us that gas is "green", then elects it, though no calculation is offered to prove it. There is a flaw, though. Gas can cause respiratory ailments in children. Valley's solution? To open a window, or to use a solar-powered ventilation system. The first suggestion has a ring, as does much of this book, of a singularly inept Ministry of Information booklet; the alternative suggests a lot of money.

But pity the Greens, their clothes snatched unsympathetically by all living political parties, their vote plunging dismally as Mrs Thatcher hosts ozone conferences, and her advisers talk about the possibility for economically acceptable sustainable development. Stuart McBurney and Jeremy Seabrook both attack this idea, and McBurney makes a heartfelt case for its impossibility. As with most deep greens, he sees mankind's career as one long Fall, and is all for going back to palaeolithic (or earlier) conditions.

He thinks that what went wrong was man's capacity to conceptualize. This displaced man's intuitive experience of the planet,

A bout of green spleen

Anna Bramwell

1001 WAYS TO SAVE THE PLANET

By Bernadette Valley

Penguin, £4.99

THE MYTH OF THE MARKET

By Jeremy Seabrook

Green Books, £6.50

ECOLOGY INTO ECONOMICS

WON'T GO

By Stuart McBurney

Green Books, £6.95

and led to the hunt for profit. Sometimes one feels that ideologies should live as they talk — but it is hard to be palaeolithic all by yourself, and McBurney has my sympathy in his sincere and touching pursuit, though why his dedications should include Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon I cannot think.

As usual with these deep ecologists, capitalism is seen as the source of environmental ills. Both writers attack the international trading system, but for Jeremy Seabrook the approach is moral rather than structural. To him, the most striking image of capitalism is Michael Ryan, the lone gunman of Hungerford. Individualism is the evil to be fought, and Seabrook fights it with a muddled spleen.

Unfortunately, this can go down well with the brightest intellectuals. They swallowed it over the profit motive as agent of planeticide. So long as they can make enough to go on buying their brake linings and solar-powered ventilators.

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Vivaldi: The Four Seasons
at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

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Prologue: Rossini's "The Barber of Seville"
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PUCCHINI GALA NIGHT
Prologue: Puccini's "The Girl of the Port"
Tosca
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SUNDAY 27 MAY at 7.30 p.m.
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ARTS

Country passions

DANCE

John Percival

A Month in the Country
Song of the Earth
Covent Garden

REAL age is not necessarily relevant in the theatre; witness, for instance, Simon Rice's convincing performance as a schoolboy in Thursday's revival of *A Month in the Country*. However, her appearance does effectively prevent Sylvie Guillem from playing the heroine, Natalia Petrovna, as Turgenev wrote the role, a woman who sees life and love slipping past her.

Instead, she suggests simply that passionate feelings have overwhelmed her for the first time, after a marriage devoted to mediocre pursuits: running a house for her elderly husband and flirting mildly with her admirer Rakitin. She plays this unorthodox approach very well, especially in showing vividly that she can no more endure Rakitin's touch. She also dances Ashton's steps as expressively as usual, with her own intelligent phrasing.

Guillem would have got away with it if she had played opposite one of the Royal Ballet's gifted and personable young men as the tutor she becomes infatuated with. Anthony Dowell, the role's creator, would do the ballet a service by passing it on now; although the wig helps his appearance, his movements have lost their legato suppleness. Vereck Rencher's absence could have enabled him to move gracefully into playing Rakitin, although then we should have missed seeing Jeremy Sheffield's sympathetic account of the part.

This work replaced the postponed premiere of *Bintley's The*

Planets. It thus aborted what should have been the company's most interesting musical juxtaposition all season: Holst and Mahler.

John Laneberry, recuperating from medical treatment, stepped in bravely at short notice to replace the late Ashley Lawrence as conductor, and injuries in the intended cast for *Song of the Earth*. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that this was not one of the ballet's more rewarding performances. Darcy Russell, new to the central role, looked somewhat rather promising from the waist up but her movements lacked weight and expression.

Anthony Dowson made a solid substitute for the leading man; Bruce Sansom could afford to put more menace into his movements as the Messenger of Death.



Anthony Dowson, Bruce Sansom and Darcy Russell in *Song of the Earth*

Theatre: Peter Hall's enthralling new production of *The Wild Duck* at the Phoenix, reviewed by Jeremy Kingston

Ibsen revealed in bruising confrontations

With his characteristic boldness in following through an idea that other directors might consider too obvious to contemplate, Peter Hall emphasizes the confrontational essence of Ibsen's play by repeatedly placing his arguing characters face to face.

There they stand, usually centre-stage, Hjalmar opposite Gregers, Gregers opposite his father, Hjalmar staring at Gina, Gregers staring at Dr Relling — not exactly nose-to-nose, but nose pointing unwaveringly at nose, like those ingenious drawings that contrive to be two faces or the stem of a goblet, depending on how your eyes focus.

These confrontations could be fussily broken up by advising one actor to wander onstage or circle moodily round a stool, but Hall has no truck with petty disguises. What each character says in these scenes is of equal weight. One of them may be wrong — though wretched Gregers, with his naive notions of spiritual honesty, is scarcely ever right — and by setting them against each other like armoured knights at a tourney, the idea of the play as a search for self-fulfilment, as Benedict Nightingale pointed out on this page on Thursday, is fraught with danger and can be fatal when urged upon a man against his will.

Gregers and Hjalmar are the first pair to confront each other, when the elderly guests at old Mr Werle's sumptuous dinner have departed to drink *maraschino*. Alex Jennings's Hjalmar, not really at ease in rooms hung with purple velvet, and the only man wearing a black tie, is just self-confident enough not to finger it. Plump, stiff-backed and head high, he is confronted by David Threlfall's

hunched and skinny Gregers — the only character oblivious to food and drink.

In Jennings's voice one can plainly hear the rhythms of the younger whose recitations of dramatic poetry melted every-one's heart. When the scene changes to his photographic studio, and Werle's half-seen dining-room becomes the half-seen loft where the wild duck dwells in the make-believe forest, Jennings's voice takes on the delusive tone of the compulsive self-dramatist which, in moments of alarm, will be strangled into a nasal bleat. It is a superbly convincing, and repeatedly funny, portrait of a man who has been cosseted since childhood.

Women have done most of the cossetting, but clearly old Werle's handouts will not be refused, so long as he can adopt a noble posture while accepting them. The fractional hesitation before describing as "unpretentious" the café owned by Gina's mother suggests his awareness that "dubious" or "accommodating" might describe it better.

What the production also convincingly shows is his happy domestic life, a vital element in the play. Nicholas McAuliffe's Gina clearly loves her husband, and the graces her performance with telling gestures of wifely care, while Maria Miles's wide-eyed Hedvig murmurs "You're so kind", when he is gracious enough to accept some gift. Gina's devotion to her is exactly caught by the impatient slap she pulls back at the last second, so that she strikes herself instead.

This is the household that the meddling Gregers destroys, doing so with his mealy, urgent voice, like that of a hippy rotted on acid.



Nose-to-nose: Nicholas McAuliffe, Alex Jennings and Maria Miles in *The Wild Duck*

When he puts to Hedvig the idea of sacrificing the wild duck, wrapping the suggestion in words like "strong-minded", and fixing her with his loopy eyes, a murmur of fascinated horror ripples round the audience. The only difficulty with this performance is that it leaves him nowhere to go when

the tragedy bursts, as though he is too stoned to take it in. With fine performances from Alan Dobie's Werle, a volcano not yet burnt out, Frances Cuka's Mrs Sorby and Terence Rigby's Wedekind-like Relling, this is as perfect an Ibsen as one has a right to expect.

Almost too perfect? It seems grudging to say so, but at times it does seem too carefully measured, which is why Lionel Jeffries' reappearances as Old Ekdal, delightfully signalling dither, are a refreshment. Oddly enough, this is a production that may become even better as it starts to unravel.

Moral fables from ancient Bunyan and early Miller

THEATRE

Michael Wright

The Pilgrim's Progress
Battersea

THIS sparse production of Bunyan's religious allegory, adapted for the stage by Robin Brooks, reflects the Empty Space Theatre Company's credo: "We believe in actors and imagination". They supply four of the former, but the audience is required to provide a hefty quota of the latter. (The mention of Twycroft Zoo in the programme-credits seems promising, but the expected lions never appear.) It takes a strong mind to dream up dramatic interest where there is little, but our imaginations are assisted by vibrant characterizations from the small cast.

Paul Casselle's portrayal of Christian (The Pilgrim) is an immaculate conception. No soapy adventurer he, but a rugged, balding fellow with a grumpy face and a powerful whiff of *l'homme moyen* about him. Andrew St John (playing Evangelist, who else?), booms out as if a contrabassoon is concealed in his vocal cords; Kathleen Campbell sparkles a pair of dazzling green eyes; Charlotte Winner acts primarily with a versatile chin and fluttering eye-lids.

Together they make a fine ensemble, accompanying the action with various groans and drones, like sewers gurgling forth effluent water. Occasionally they produce snatches of Bunyan's hymn "He Who Would Valiant Be", which recurs throughout as a leitmotiv. The singing is not lovely, however.

Fine moments among Andrew Holmes's impressively fluent staging are the oozy gloom of the Slough of Despond; Christian's vivid battle with Apollyon (ter-

rifying); and best of all, the seething frenetic activity of Vanity Fair.

But isolated scenes do not make up for an overall lack of dramatic power, especially in the first half, the gurgly one, in which the sum total is an attractive curiosity rather than the "immediate modern drama" touted by Empty Space's optimistic press release.

Bunyan still looks happier on the page than on the stage.



The Pilgrim's Progress: Andrew St John and Paul Casselle

Harry Eyres

The Man Who Had
All The Luck
Bristol Old Vic

WITH this early work, the Arthur Miller (UK) bandwagon rolls into Bristol. The play is a fable about the perils of good fortune, which is both a reversal of the Book of Job and a precursor of later plays such as *Death of a Salesman* and *The Price*. The original production on Broadway in 1944 lasted only four nights, but Miller was not prepared to write it off as a failure; he says he has revised the ending 20 times since then. The present version dates from 1988. Sadly, Paul Unwin's production, strong around the fringes but hollow in the middle, fails to make a compelling case for it.

The plot concerns the two Beeves brothers, David is lucky in everything he attempts — love, the garage business, milk-breeding — while Amos fails as a baseball player, having been over-coached by his doting father. The crucial point, which fails to come across in Iain Glen's David, full of *ingenu* charm but strangely frail and under-powered, is that good luck causes him acute anxiety. In the novel which preceded the play, inability to accept his good

fortune leads to madness and suicide. Such self-destructiveness seems perverse, but has to be seen in the context of the 1929 crash, which, retrospectively, gave a doom-laden quality to all success. A telling moment in the first act occurs when David is congratulated for a repair effected by a mysterious stranger; instead of a moral dilemma we are presented with arch situation comedy.

Humour wins hands down over moral conflict in this production. Barry Stanton as J.B. Feller, a drunken store-keeper of the same breed as the doctor in *Stage Coach*, gives a vivid performance, while Christopher Etridge marvellously creates a convincing persona for Gus, the Austrian immigrant, who is also a personification of fortune.

The non-naturalistic aspects of the play are highlighted by Sally Crabb's clever sets, which show themselves up as constructions, and Andy Sheppard's striking music, used to emphasize the strokes of outrageous fortune. Paul Unwin's grasp of the elusive Miller mixed style cannot be faulted; it is the content which seems to have escaped him. Those who enjoyed Rudi Davies's performance in Andrea Newman's *A Sense of Guilt* can see her replay it as David's wife Hester; this talented actress should not be content to repeat mannerisms.

Money to the wind

TELEVISION

Jasper Rees

"IF IT'S got wings it's a plane," said someone when asked to lay to rest a dispute as to whether a Sunderland, a vehicle which floats and flies, is a boat or an aircraft. In fact, the Sunderland was not the only thing that was airborne in "Edward's Flying Boat", part one of *Short Stories* (Channel 4), a new documentary series which gives a chance to first-time directors. Edward, himself, seemed to have his head in the clouds. Where else could it have been when, down on the ground, the rest of him was signing away the family's seven-figure fortune in order to indulge a boyish whim?

Sometimes people make gentle films in homage to this classic car or that vintage train, but in the best examples of the genre the rusty hunk of metal is only an excuse to make a film that is anything but a homage. This was one of them, as the main point of interest in Catherine Adler's little gem of a documentary was not the magnificence of the flying machine but the loquaciousness of the man who owns it.

When Edward Hulton inherited the wealth built up by his father in the publishing empire responsible

for giving the world such titles as *The Eagle and the Pigeon*, no one could understand why he sank a fat slice of it into a majestic old Sunderland, the last of its kind.

His first wife could not, and left him; nor can his second: "I, for one, certainly don't want to be poor," she grandly announced to the camera, though it looks as if she is going to be.

Edward's explanation was that losing money was in the blood: his grandparents had lost all their possessions in the Russian Revolution. Perhaps an egotistic memory of this injustice made Edward wary of his indispensable chief mechanic Peter, whom he suspected of being "rather left-wing". And perhaps this was why he claimed not to feel "welcome in my own property."

Certainly, there was a subversive side to Peter, no mean eccentric himself, who practically talked to an eagle-pigeon hybrid on his shoulder: he observed that whenever Edward changed the name of the aircraft something went wrong, and the glint in his eye indicated that he would love to see it happen again.

Meanwhile, it was impossible to read anything into Edward's far-away look. "English people are a pretty weird bunch, actually," he said approvingly, as if trying to rope us all in to his particular state.

The only theory he is ever likely to be able to prove is an old-established one — that if you talk to a camera for long enough, you will inevitably end up shooting yourself in the foot.

Coming through loud and clear

CONCERTS

Stephen Pettitt

Moscow RSO/
Fedoseyev
Barbican

IF THE Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra was dispirited by the poor public response to its concert on Thursday, the playing did not show it. High passion characterized all three works in different ways, so that feverish, loud endings were a major theme of the evening. The musicians, encouraged by a conductor, Vladimir Fedoseyev, who is obviously a fully paid-up member of the Soviet melodramatic school, were happy to nail their emotional colours to the mast.

So it was in the full-blooded reading of Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini* — but even this work demands some sensitive

balancing. Perhaps because the players did not have sufficient time in which to master this tricky acoustic, there were moments when their sound became coarse and confused, dominated by high, gratingly steely violins, unpleasantly booming timpani (not for nothing does the London Symphony Orchestra tend to place them forward and to one side of the platform), and piercing cymbals. Perhaps, however, an aural representation of Dante's vision of Hell should not sound too pleasant, if it is to be convincing — and this audience certainly relished the stirring amount of volume.

Somewhere in this heady drama could be distinguished some well-shaped contributions from the woodwinds. They were given space to shine more prominently in a cogent reading of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony. The sound of the violins — which had not changed — also suited this music better. The first movement, an enormous structure of Brahmanian density, was carefully and

convincingly shaped, while the Scherzo, far from being simply jaunty, created and dissipated its own menace and manic energy; and the Adagio's passions, with emerging, tremulant trumpets and triumphant horns, were indulged to the full, though in a way which preserved momentum.

Between these two exercises in unabashed romanticism came Prokofiev's First Piano Concerto, whose premiere in 1912 was received with something like numbed shock. Even today, it punches hard with its obsessive little five-note theme, its irrepressible rhythmic impulse and its often difficult piano part.

Vladimir Ovchinnikov chose not to over-exaggerate the concerto's spiky qualities, however, giving a performance which, though brilliant, also paid due attention to tone quality. He is a strong, imaginative and intelligent pianist, the perfect man to reveal aspects of this work rather deeper than those that are usually perceived.

Island sounds and sweet airs

David Fallows

RLPO/Wordsworth
Liverpool

OVER a hundred miles west of Scotland lies the tiny island of St Kilda — savage, treeless, thoroughly inhospitable and, until the last few inhabitants were evacuated about 60 years ago, Gaelic-speaking. Now it is a bird-reserve and military base.

But the loss of an old and isolated culture on a deserted spot of such stark beauty has not only a romantic appeal of its own, but also a message about the inevitable changes in the human condition.

James Wishart has treated a commission from the Royal

Liverpool Philharmonic as a chance to explore these things. His 20-minute *Oran Hiorlach* (St Kilda Song) for soprano and orchestra uses texts from a variety of sources: poems about the island, reflections on the symbolically stark circumstances in which the last islanders left their home, and two Gaelic songs from St Kilda. It also uses orchestral textures derived from the Psalmody of the Western Isles.

The work has the virtues of a thoroughly coherent and well-controlled style, with an economy that, at the same time, never loses shape or formal drive. Much of the writing is basically in a slow-moving and widely-spaced three-part counterpoint, in which a small concertino group brings focus to the multi-layered orchestral material.

While the colours change relatively little, the work has a remarkable unity within a texture that is constantly alive and never risks losing the attention of the listener.

The vocal line — magnificently projected by Sarah Leonard — has wide-ranging and angular shapes that seem to reflect the island. It is in a style that often buries the words; and it might, therefore, have benefited from less text, so that the listener could focus more directly on the musical events. But the work's impact is undeniable.

Barry Wordsworth conducted a clear and direct first performance. Earlier, Anne Quaffier had been a fluidly lyrical soloist in Chopin's First Piano Concerto.

The concert ended with a well-modulated reading of Stravinsky's *Firebird* suite.

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RECORDS

Power and the glory

CLASSICAL

Hilary Finch

Beethoven: Nine Symphonies/Leonore No 3 (RCA GD60324; 5 discs)
 Brahms: Four Symphonies/Haydn Variations/Douglas Concerto etc. (RCA GD60325; 4 discs)
 Verdi: Aida/Falstaff/Requiem etc. (RCA GD60326; 7 discs)
 All the above with the NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Arturo Toscanini

He was born before the invention of the phonograph, and 20 years later, in 1887, played the cello at the premiere of Verdi's *Otello*. And now Arturo Toscanini's entire recorded legacy is preserved and reproduced for posterity on both video and compact disc. RCA Victor's formidable programme of nine concert videos and 21 CDs is due for completion in 1992 on the 125th anniversary of the conductor's birth; it was launched recently in Rome, in the presence of Toscanini's daughter and grandson, and amid an international orgy of self-congratulation.

The first fruits of the great harvest, reaped from the first acoustic La Scala recordings of 1920 up to the television concerts of the early 1950s, are those made at the very end of his career. The transfers and remasterings made under the direction of John Pfeiffer are from tapes of the original recording sessions, not from the production masters for the 78s or LPs. As such, they faithfully, at times tryingly, maintain the dry, constricted acoustic which Toscanini himself favoured, whether in studio or in concert hall. The sound, though, is freshly focused and enlivened in its digital remastering.

What it all reveals is, not surprisingly, Toscanini's astonishing rhythmic rigour, his microscopic observation of detail, the fine transparency and alertness of his string playing. Less predictable, perhaps, for the general listener, will be the revelations (particularly on video) of Toscanini's own smouldering, hypnotic hold over his performers. The violinist Oscar Shumsky has admitted to feeling so dominated, almost owned, by the maestro that he escaped to chamber music. Something of that extraordinary chemistry is palpably present in the charge of energy transmitted, for instance, to the soloists of the Brahms Double Concerto, and in the obviously inspired contribution of the vocal quartet of Beethoven's Ninth. Here, for a brief epiphanic moment, is a glimpse of how the voices can genuinely thrill as an organic part of the symphony's life.

The Beethoven is, in fact,

Toscanini's only complete recorded cycle, and was made when he was between 82 and 85 years of age. The Second Symphony, recorded between 1949 and 1951, is one of his finest performances on disc. It is the culmination of his vision of the work as charged by brilliantly contrasting dynamics, biting rhythmic momentum, and a startling fusion of hard-edged sonority with the lightest and finest of string playing. The first movement passes as if in one long upbeat; the three-quarter pulse of the Larghetto draws one lightly suspended line of melody from a divertimento-like orchestral texture.

Received wisdom about Toscanini is questioned at many points in RCA's release, but nowhere more pointedly than in the Sixth Symphony. Far from being faster and more fiercely driven in the reputed tradition of his later performances, this "Pastoral" has an elasticity of rhythm, a flexibility of phrasing which seems to convey a particular affection for the work. It was, after all, the Beethoven which Toscanini broadcast most and recorded last.

The rhythmic primacy of the Seventh Symphony makes it, of course, Toscanini material *par excellence*; though the merciless driving of this finale does make it more of a relentless workout than the apotheosis of the dance. Toscanini's obessional avoidance of anything too slow or too Germanic in this work results in the introduction becoming a crescendo of pounding semiquavers; the Vivace, with its tight, tense woodwind, is hindered by expectation; and the slow movement's weightless counter-subject soon achieves rare urgency in its own right.

Toscanini was something of a champion of the Ninth Symphony; at the turn of the century performances were still rare, let alone readings marked by such "subtle and significant modifications of tempo", as the *New York Times* critic noted of Toscanini's in 1913. Nearly 40 years on, the observation is still startlingly true, and nowhere more so than in the chorale finale. For once, every shift of tempo makes careful, thrilling sense: the soloists relax into lyricism itself.

Toscanini's Brahms is, for me, less than great. There are moments of awe-inspiring insight, like the delicate, intuitive realization of Brahms's own *Allegro no troppo* *ma con brio* direction for the last movement of the First, and the sense of musical weights and measures finding their own instinctive level in the Andante of the Third. But Toscanini's is an uncomprehensive, and therefore a partial Brahms, often so meticulously studied that



Hypnotic hold: the young Arturo Toscanini in 1896, the year of the world premiere of *La Bohème*

the conductor's profile becomes more sharply outlined than that of the composer.

For Toscanini, no opera was "more beautiful, more complete, newer and more Latin than *Falstaff*". And no recording of Verdi's great masterpiece is perhaps more perfectly paced, more joyful in ensemble, more vibrant in pulse than this NBC broadcast of 1950. Verdi never heard Toscanini's performance, though the conductor was only 26 when it received its premiere; but his librettist Boito conveyed his own "immense intellectual joy" at Toscanini's way with a work with which he obviously felt the deepest sympathy.

Few performances can offer wind playing comparable to that at the entry into Ford's garden; few show such a vivid palette of women's voices as that glowing from the casting of Herva Nelli, Nan Merriman, Cloe Elmo and, above all, Teresa Stich-Randall's

Nannetta. Giuseppe Valdengo's Falstaff, with its dark underside of anger and melancholy, thrives in an environment of robust recitative, tingling ensemble and transparent string playing.

Aida, taken from studio performances of 1949 (and also available on video, RCA 9790346) is less magnificent vocally: Richard

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Tallis: *Spem in alium*, etc. Winchester Cathedral Choir (Hyperion CDA 66400)
 A fine choice of Tallis's Latin settings, but the big star here is the majestic reverberation of Winchester Cathedral.
 Record for Rumania (Marco Polo 8.225305)
 This release may profit Romania, but it does little for Enescu: only the short symphonic poem *Voix de la nature* shows a complex personality. But the playing, by Romanian orchestras, is passionate throughout.

Tucker's Radames is a shade dry. Herva Nelli's Aida moves, but fails to thrill, and Valdengo's Amonasro lacks the sympathy or stature of his Falstaff. But the refinement of pacing and phrasing and the stifling tension of the private scenes contribute much that is remarkable to this performance.

Nelli plays a happier part in Toscanini's last great *Requiem* performance of 1951. The same boxed set also offers not only the *Te Deum* but "Va, pensiero", Luisa Miller's "Quando le sere al plácido", and the extraordinary *Hymn of the Nations* Verdi wrote for the London Exhibition of 1862. Toscanini, himself the son of a Garibaldi revolutionary, resurrected it in 1943 for an Office of War Information film, adding to its heady mélange of English, French and Italian national anthems a stirring coda of the *Internationale* and *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Evviva Toscanini!

Reed standing tall again

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Eddie Daniels Nepenthe (GRP 9607-2)
 The Chick Corea Electric Band Inside Out (GRP 9601)
 Randy Weston Portraits of Duke Ellington (Verve 841312)

Once the prince of jazz instruments, the clarinet has suffered badly in the post-war era, never recovering from the onslaught of bebop. Where Artie Shaw, Barney Bigard and Benny Goodman once led the way, a contemporary player such as Eddie Daniels now seems almost a freak of nature.

In the five years since the classical-jazz album *Breakthrough*, the 48-year-old New Yorker has generally been given a rough time by reviewers. Though reed players are constantly amazed by his control of tone in even the most tortuous sequences, there has been an undeniably saccharine flavour to much of his work. In his progress through the various genres, from Charlie Parker riffs (*To Bird With Love*) to quasi-classical (*Memos From Paradise*), he has sounded like a virtuoso in search of the right format.

In *Nepenthe* he has been given the glossy GRP fusion treatment. The process is usually fatal, but Daniels's sextet emerges unscathed, with tunes which function as more than mere background music. Though the album title refers to a mythical Egyptian narcotic, there is nothing sleep-inducing about Daniels's elegant improvisation on "Sun Dance" or "Equinox". His playing here is sparser than usual, no longer simply spilling out the arpeggios.

The album does run out of energy by the end of its 60 minutes. It is at least a pleasant change to hear a clarinetist take

on material that is usually reserved for extrovert tenor saxophonists — and to hear a fusion band which allows the soloist plenty of space. Guitarist Chuck Loeb and drummer Dave Weckl encourage a sophisticated but uncluttered ambience.

For GRP at its very worst, one can turn to Chick Corea's Electric Band, which happens to include two of Daniels's sidemen — Weckl, and bassist John Patitucci. Speeding along at a constant 100mph, the compositions amount to the sort of vacuous gee-whizzery that appeals to the more impressionable sixth-former. Corea's undisputed keyboard skills are spread dreadfully thin here. To complete the insult, his sleeve notes find space for full details of his agent, lawyer, fan club and clothes designer.

Back in the adult world, Randy Weston's tribute to Duke Ellington forms part of a trilogy including a collection of Thelonious Monk standards and a "self-portrait". Heavily influenced by Monk, the composer of "High Fly" plays six Ellington originals, accompanied by bassist Jamil Nasser, drummer Idris Muhammad and percussionist Eric Asante.

Asante's pounding African drums create an atmospheric prelude to "Caravan", a miniature which has been twisted out of shape by many a circus band. Expanding the piece to a full 12 minutes, Weston builds momentum with spacious, Monk-like chords. "Sepia Panorama", which formed a spectacular vehicle for Jimmy Blanton and Ben Webster in 1940, meanders through an 11-minute dialogue between piano and drums. Muhammad's New Orleans cross-rhythms toy with the time signature on "Limbo Jazz", but the result is mangled compared with the breezy jam session on Ellington's 1963 encounter with Coleman Hawkins.

JAZZ UPDATE

Mose Allison: *My Backyard* (Blue Note CDP-7983402)
 After a gap of almost three years, the singer-pianist is back with a modern New Orleans band and more deadpan reflections on the loser's life. Saxophonist Tony Dagradi and guitarist Steve Masakowski stir a soulful brew, taking some of the pressure off of Allison's highly personalized voice.
 Fats Waller And His Rhythm: *The Last Years* (RCA/Bluebird ND-90411) (3 CDs)
 A lavish collection of more

than 60 small group and big band tracks from the period 1940-1943. The mixture of vaudeville and genius culminates in a rendition of "Ain't Misbehavin'", cut for the all-black film musical *Stormy Weather*.
 Thelonious Monk: *Genius of Modern Music*, Volumes 1 & 2 (Blue Note CDP-81510/1)
 Some of the pianist-composer's earliest — and most enduring — recordings. The new re-ordered package finds space for alternate takes, though at the expense of a number of the collaborations with Milt Jackson.

Darkest deeds

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davalle

Tales of Horror by Edgar Allan Poe (Listen for Pleasure, LPF7454)
 Ghost Stories M.R. James (Argo 1145)

Sherlock Holmes (3) (BBC Radio Collection, ZBBC 1123)

REASONING, sensibly, that an actor best known for his horror films (*Dracula*, *Curse of Frankenstein*, *The Mummy* etc) ought to know how to produce a *frisson*. Listen for Pleasure has selected Christopher Lee to read this quartet of flesh-creepers by Poe. Another — probably even more legitimate — reason for choosing Lee is that his tones are baritone, shading into bass; Poe should never be read aloud by a tenor, because he would be able to make nothing of dark tales about dank sepulchres, rotting corpses guarded by vengeful black cats, and prisoners facing death by rats and a pendulum meat slicer.

When Fortunato, the villain of *The Cask of Amontillado*, says: "I shall not die of a cough", Lee injects so much prescient menace into the line that we dare hardly contemplate the nature of the doom that is planned for him.

Compared with the eye-popping horrors of Poe, the quintet of M.R. James ghost stories are mere goose-pimples, and the reassuring voice of Michael Hordern is absolutely right for them. You feel James himself might have selected Hordern to recount these restrained tales of haunted dolls' houses, diaries, and private schools.

The drama in the Sherlock Holmes cassettes — the third in the series — is, inevitably, more forensic than Poe's or James's. These are the BBC radio productions from the 1950s and 1960s, with Carleton Hobbs's definitive Holmes and Norman Shelley's ditto Watson. Four gripping case histories, including *The Musgrave Ritual* and *Black Peter*, with its nasty, Poe-type harpoon murder.

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A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 30 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE KINKS

Perhaps rock's definitive chronicler of the English way, Ray Davies's finely-drawn vignettes of life in the Sixties remain both touching and apposite, be they tales of star-crossed lovers bathed in a rose-tinted sunset on Waterloo Bridge, or of facing up to the grim realities of life in "Dead End Street". Furthermore, with the pummeling aggression of their 1964 hit "You Really Got Me", the Kinks may arguably claim to have minted the first bona fide heavy-metal riff. But although the group put out several ambitious "concept" albums in the late Sixties, and subsequently enjoyed considerable success in America, it is for that initial burst of singles, released between 1964 and 1970, that they remain best known and loved. "All Day and All of the Night", "Tired of Waiting for You", "Sunny Afternoon", "Till the End of the Day", "Lola" and other similarly glorious three-minute wonders are collected on *Greatest Hits* (1985), which despite Davies's best efforts is really the only essential Kinks album.



Apposite: Ray Davies

KOOL AND THE GANG

For a group with such a determinedly low profile, Kool and the Gang enjoyed a phenomenal strike rate throughout the Eighties, particularly in the US chart, with such hits as "Celebration", "Get Down on It" and "Victory" seemingly becoming part of the air that we breathe without ever fully impinging on the consciousness. A slick, mellifluous soul groove dominates *The Singles Collection*, released in 1988, a timely reminder of such triumphs, but one which inevitably ignores the one of the definitive street-funk bands of the early Seventies, alongside acts like War and the Ohio Players. Led from the rear by bassist Robert "Kool" Bell, abetted by his brother Ronald Bell on tenor and soprano saxophone, Kool and the Gang first powered into the American chart with *Wild and Peaceful* in 1974, an album which boasted the immortal cuts "Funky Stuff", "Jungle Boogie" and "Hollywood Swinging".

NEXT WEEK: Led Zeppelin, Level 42

ROCK UPDATE

Lee "Scratch" Perry From the Secrecy Laboratory (Mango MPLS 1035)
 The legendary reggae producer emerges from a fallow period with sparks of his former genius.

Ali Farka Toure The River (World Circuit WCD 017)
 Rich and contemplative

music from Mali, tastefully embellished by the occasional addition of harmonica, percussion and saxophone.

Black Box Dreamland (Deconstruction PD 74572)
 "Ride on Time" may have been the biggest hit single of last year, but it gave no indication that this Italian group had any

more to offer. Their album is surprisingly accomplished and offers a well-rounded collection of songs.

Billy Idol Charmed Life (Chrysalis CDD 1735)
 Idol's image and lifestyle do not encourage the serious reading of his music, but his new album, the first since 1986, makes intelligent use of rock 'n' roll clichés.

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GARDENING

As gardens start to run riot, Francesca Greenoak suggests a plan of action for their owners — and for flower show fans

How does your garden grow?

There is a point in every year when the fecundity of foliage and flowers in the garden becomes slightly unnerving. Where only a short time earlier one rejoiced in the expansiveness, one now sees apprehensively that urgent action is required, as the garden loses definition in its billowing growth. Bushy plants such as hardy geraniums, jealous of the space allotted, impose on their more restrained neighbours; small delicate flowers are lost from sight, and the strands of climbing plants tie themselves into aggressively intractable knots.

At the same time an undercurrent of weed growth goes briskly into action; the annual meadow grass thickens its tufts by pathsides and sends up its little flowering stems with such amazing rapidity that digging them up, you invariably spill the tiny seeds for its next crop. No longer can such weeds be considered as fuel for the compost heap, for the seeds will probably survive the heating and emerge to germinate next year.

Other small weeds are dashing to spread themselves as fast as possible: speedwells, chanter's nightshade, the daintily rosetted hairy bittercress which hitches a lift with container-grown plants and stays forever, flickering its seeds explosively throughout the flowerbed at the mere proximity of the careful gardener's hand. Meanwhile dandelions have bloomed as never before this year, and the grey-white lollipop seedheads of future trouble are populous not only in gardens but on adjacent land, roadsides and verges. Even if you cannot root up the plant, remove the seedheads without delay.

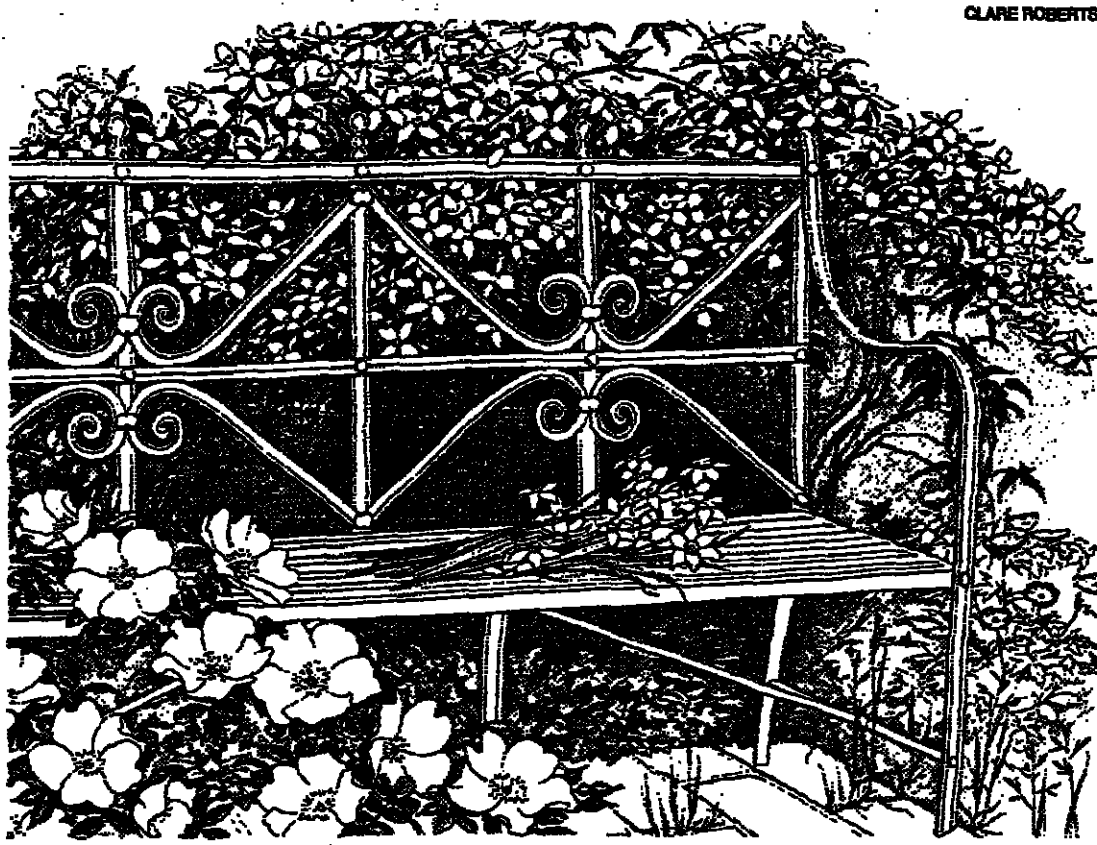
A determined session of weeding and trimming can usually restore the garden to an attractive brilliance, which will probably never be bettered during any other season. This year, plant life is so precocious that the special flowers of late spring are coinciding with

those of summer, such as meadow cranesbill and Welsh poppy. Among the most precious plants now blooming I value highly the Pheasant's Eye narcissus, with its paper-pale, thrown-back flower of green-orange, and the most wonderful rich scent, which falls short of the slightly sickening heaviness of some of the showy, modern narcissi. Even a small group of, say, half a dozen or so planted close together is well worth having in the garden.

The small native European gladiolus (*Gladiolus italicus*, sometimes called *byzantinus*) is now emerging from its beautifully folded bud to reveal a complicated but brief-lived flower of intense pink. It rises, those other glorious, short-lived flowers of early summer, are also coming into bloom. They respond well to sunny conditions, perhaps worth increasing if warm weather persists.

The low-growing soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoides*) which has begun to be sold in garden centres also seems to have enjoyed the warm spring. Another southern European native, this little plant, with its endearing, five-petalled pink flowers, looks very well at the edges of a border or bed. I'd also recommend the strawberry-potilla hybrid called Pink Panther (which I planted only because I was given it). It has turned out to be much nicer than expected, the flowers opening a strong pink which fades slightly with time, and an edible (if not gourmet) fruit is promised later in the season.

An early summer shrub I love is *Rubus Tridel Benenden*, a member of the blackberry/raspberry genus. Its rose-like flowers have rather crumpled white petals around a golden centre, which arches along branches of dainty, mid-green foliage. As the early roses come into bloom, I was interested to find that the incense rose (*Rosa primula*) which does not give off its rich scent as readily as the briar roses



Gathering flowers in May: clematis, Pheasant's Eye narcissi, incense roses and meadow cranesbill

(indeed, you have virtually to macerate a leaf to get that spicy, high-church fragrance) perfumes the air with no intervention when it is very hot. This makes good sense of growing it against a hot sunny wall.

There is a good range of plants of all kinds at nurseries and garden centres now. Water-plants can be planted or put in position in ponds warmed up by the sun. Annuals of various kinds can be bought to fill gaps, though tender plants such as impatiens and geraniums (especially small, young specimens) should be acclimatised to outdoor conditions for a while, and not planted in their permanent position until all danger of frost has passed.

Some plants which provided early display may need to be taken in hand now; straggly shoots of osmanthus or evergreen ocanthus may be pruned back as necessary after the flowers have faded. Kerria should have its flowering stems cut right back to near ground level after the blooming fades, in order to encourage next year's flowering shoots (cutting all the shoots back is advised for the double form). Honesty, which brightens the shade under trees, should be pulled out after flowering, except for those plants which you require for seed or winter seed-head display, otherwise next year's garden will be dominated by this friendly purple invader. The same goes for hedge garlic and forget-me-nots, whose development should be arrested before they go over-generously to seed. There will be enough seed from plants you overlook to provide a show for next year.

The early clematis (the *montana* group) is already in good flower. Strictly speaking they do not require pruning, but if they have tangled themselves into unruly knottwork, or begun to conquer areas with the scateurs after flowering, when the long strands can safely be cut back and neatened.

Wiltshire: Conock Manor (5m SE of Devizes off A342). Climbers, formal garden, kitchen garden, pool, woodland, hedges and alleys. Teas. Adult £1, child 50p. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.

Gloucestershire: Stone House Cottage Gardens, Stone (2m SE of Kidderminster via A448 towards Bromsgrove, turn up drive next to church). One-acre walled garden, rare wall shrubs, climbers, herbaceous plants; plant sale in adjacent nurseries. Adult £1, child free. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm.

Cumbria: Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby (6m E of Penrith on A66). Famous walled garden with fine herb garden, orchard and mixed borders: wild garden, woodland/riverbank walk. National Trust/WGS. Adult £1, child 50p. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm.

DYFED: Pant-yr-Hollad, Rhydllewis (12m NS Llandysul. From Cardigan take coast road B4334 to Brynhoftant; S towards Rhydllewis; take left turn after 1 mile, then 2nd left). Five-acre informal woodland garden with unusual trees, bog garden, pool, terraced bed with alpines and herbs. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.

Other places of interest to visit in London during Chelsea Week include: The Museum of Garden History, St Mary-at-Lambeth (on the south bank just over Lambeth Bridge, opposite the Palace of Westminster). Ignore recent, inaccurate press noisings: the Museum of Garden History is open Mon-Fri 11am-3pm, Sun 10.30am-5pm, with a permanent display of gardening artefacts, and an attractive knot garden of 17th-century plants. Throughout Chelsea Week, until May 27, there will be an exhibition of paintings by Gillian White and Clarence White.

Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road. This historic garden close to the flower show grounds will be open to the public from noon-5pm Tues-Fri, admission £2.

Spink and Son, King St, St James's, London SW1Y 6QS has an exhibition of watercolours and drawings by botanical artist Mary Grierson of garden plants, British wildflowers and flowers of the Hawaiian islands.

Vintage Chelsea

The most famous flower show in the world takes place next week, in a year when the main problem for exhibitors has been not to bring things on but to hold them back; it should be a vintage event. There is a high proportion of women designers in the model garden section this year, and horticultural education is also well represented. Tickets are available through the Keith Prowse agency for the public days: Thursday May 23 (8am-8pm, £15 full day, £7 after 4pm) and Friday May 24 (8am-5pm, £12). Tickets may also be bought from Burton's Court, Royal Hospital Road, from now until the last day of the show (signed Chelsea Ticket Office). A special information line (071-748 1744) will be open during the show for latest ticket information and admission details.

RHS members can visit on Tuesday May 22 and Wednesday May 23, 8am-5pm both days, or purchase reduced-price tickets on the public days (£6, maximum two tickets), and may come to the show free at 4.30pm on Friday May 25 to buy plants from nursery exhibitors when the show closes at 5pm. Members should obtain tickets direct from Vincent Square. There will be a full report of the show in next week's column.

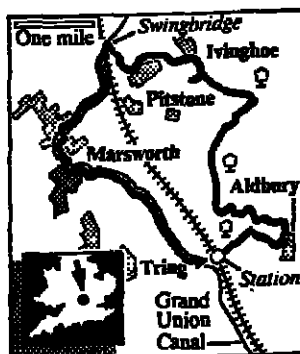
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WALK



Aldbury, Ivinghoe and the Grand Union Canal, Bucks and Herts 11 miles

THE Tring Gap has long provided a route through the Chiltern Hills to London, and this walk follows the Grand Union Canal as it heads into the gap.

Starting at Tring Station walk east, leaving the Ridge-way Path beyond Westland farm, continuing straight on through fields and then right into Aldbury, a picture-postcard village. Walk through the village and turn left on to a green lane which weaves west to the wooded hills, where it rejoins the Ridgeway Path. Follow its waymarks in woodland, then across sheep-cropped downland with good views north-west and along Griesdyke, probably Anglo-Saxon boundary earthworks. Before a deep coombe, Incombe Hole, leave the path and descend to Ivinghoe, diverting at the road to look at Pistone Windmill of 1627.

Ivinghoe is a most attractive village: its large cruciform church has good chalkstone foliage capitals and excellent medieval roof and pews. Walk through the village and opposite the Bell turn right on to a footpath that skirts behind housing and gardens, eventually reaching Pistone. Here turn right on to Cheddington Road, and then before the railway right on to a footpath that leads to a swingbridge over the Grand Union Canal.

Here turn left and follow the canal and its locks south, leaving it past the timber-framed and thatched The Ship's Stores to visit Marshworth and its church. Continue west down the lane to rejoin the canal, turn left and walk along its towpath; passing Bulbourne and its canal workshops, eventually climbing out of the cutting back to Tring Station.

Martin Andrew

HOMES & GARDENS

Continued on next page

The Ideal Hose for the Ideal Home



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The drills that pack a punch

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL FRANCIS

With the upsurge of interest in DIY over the past few years, particularly by homeowners refurbishing their hard-to-sell houses, it's useful to know which drill will best tackle a specific task. *Which?* consumer magazine tested 49 hammer, electro-pneumatic and cordless drills, along with seven electric screwdrivers.

HAMMER

An electric hammer drill can bore holes in wood or metal and, with the hammer action engaged, should cope with concrete and brickwork. The hammer action works by making the drill bit vibrate forwards and backwards, pounding the material at the drill's tip, so it is important to use masonry drill bits with hard-ened tips.

Care is vital when using a mains-powered drill outdoors; always use a residual current device to minimize the risk of an electric shock. Protecting the eyes with goggles when drilling is a sensible precaution to take.

● **Power.** Most hammer drills are rated at 500 watts or more. But this is the input power. In assessing the *Best Buys*, *Which?* also took account of the more important maximum output power.

● **Speed.** Control of speed is important for some jobs. But, even when drilling at high speed, it is often useful to be able to start the drill slowly and build up to full speed. Most of the hammer drills tested had a variable speed control. With some, this was combined with a speed pre-select control — a way of limiting the movement of the trigger so that it did not exceed the maximum speed required.

Some of the drills also had a 'torque' control. This means that the twisting force — is greater at the lower speed. This is ideal for masonry.

● **Reverse.** This is a useful action for undoing screws, and possibly for freeing a drill bit which has jammed.

● **Feedback.** An ordinary drill will tend to slow down as the load increases. A *constant speed control* tries to combat this by increasing the power to the motor to match the load. A *variable torque control* limits the twisting force at the chuck to a pre-set level. This is useful for delicate jobs such as screwdriving. An *overload cut-out* prevents the motor burning out by disconnecting the power when there is a danger of overloading it.

● **Models tested:** the one-gear hammer drills included those by AEG, Black & Decker, Bosch, Hitachi, Kango, Kress, Makita, Peugeot and Skil. The two-gear hammer drills included those by Black & Decker, Bosch, Hitachi, Kango, Metabo and Parle.

ELECTRO-PNEUMATIC

These look like hammer drills, although the hammer action of an electro-pneumatic drill is provided by a piston driven by air pressure. This is more effective than the mechanical hammer action, and electro-pneumatic drills tend to outperform ordinary hammer

drills for tough masonry jobs. Because less of the vibration gets transmitted back, they can be more comfortable to use. But they can be quite bulky, heavy and relatively expensive.

Most of the electro-pneumatic drills tested had SDS Plus toolholders rather than conventional chucks. These toolholders take special drill bits, which are about two or three times the price of ordinary masonry drill bits; from about £2.50 to £6, depending on size. The advantage is that they do not rely on how securely the chuck is tightened in order to stop the drill bit slipping.

● **Power.** The electro-pneumatic drills tested had about the same maximum output power as the conventional hammer drills, but generally performed better when hammer drilling.

● **Speed.** These drills have maximum speeds similar to two-speed hammer drills on their lower speeds. This is ideal for masonry but not so suitable for other materials, and the ordinary hammer drills were better than the electro-pneumatics for drilling in wood and steel. Most of the models tested also had a reverse action.

● **Models tested:** Bosch, Kango, Kress, Skil and Wickes.

CORDLESS

The main advantages of cordless drills are that they are light, easy to handle, less noisy than big, mains-powered drills and there is no trailing flex to worry about. Although more powerful cordless drills are coming on to the market, at present most do not have the power of larger, mains-powered drills.

● **Power.** Rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries are used. Some are contained within the drill; others come as a separate pack, which can be detached from the drill for charging.

● **Speed.** The drills generally run at much lower speeds than mains-powered drills; many also have a lower second speed. This makes them suitable for screwdriving — at the expense of drilling performance. All the models tested had a reverse action.

● **Feedback.** Only one of the cordless drills tested had a variable speed control. Three had variable torque controls — useful for small screws and soft materials — and two had overload cut-outs.

● **Charging time.** All the drills tested came with mains-powered chargers. But there was a wide variation in the time it took to recharge the batteries, from as little as one hour to as much as 16 hours. Each drill was measured to assess how well it would perform on a short emergency charge of 15 minutes.

● **Models tested:** the one-gear cordless drills included those by Black & Decker, Bosch, Hitachi, Makita, Peugeot, Wickes. The two-gear drills came from AEG, Black & Decker, Bosch, Kango, Makita, Peugeot and Skil.

DRILL BITS

The type of drill bit you need depends on the material you are tackling.

● **Steel and other metals.** HSS (high speed steel) twist drill bits are the usual choice. They cost from around 50p for a 3mm bit to about £3 for a 12mm bit. There are special conical cutting tools for drilling holes in this metal — mounting a car radio aerial, for example — costing £10 or more, depending on size.

● **Wood.** HSS twist drill bits work reasonably well in wood but it is important to ensure that the waste material from the hole is cleared to prevent the drill jamming. Most traditional wood-boring tools are designed to work at low speeds, but there are special tools for wood designed specifically to work with power drills.

● **Masonry.** These drill bits have a small piece of very hard material at the tip, usually tungsten carbide. This can withstand the hammering of a powerful electric drill and the hard, brittle nature of masonry materials. Standard length masonry drill bits cost from £1 to £2, depending on size, and there are also long masonry bits (for drilling through walls) which tend to cost more.

ELECTRIC SCREWDRIVERS

These are designed to help insert and remove screws using power from rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries.

They are relatively cheap (from about £14) but limited in their use. Those tested came with screwdriver bits. Some of the screwdrivers have pistol-grip handles, others straight.

● **Power.** Like cordless drills, electric screwdrivers use rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries. But the motors are less powerful: the worst of the drills easily out-performed the best of the screwdrivers. None of the screwdrivers could cope with driving screws into steel.

● **Speed.** Electric screwdrivers typically run at very low speeds, often less than 200 rev/min. This makes them easy to control. All the models tested were reversible, although none had variable speed or feedback controls.

● **Charging time.** from one hour to 16 hours.

● **Models tested:** Black & Decker, Bosch, Metabo, Plus-plugs and Skil.

BUYING GUIDE

BEST BUY: The Black & Decker 9018, £17, is very keenly priced.

BUYING GUIDE

● **Power showers.** Most people prefer the stronger flow rate of a power shower. It is worth going for the more versatile variable-flow type.

BEST BUY: Triton T650, £160. Reasonably cheap with good performance and a good range range of flow rates.

● **Electric showers:** for a basic shower, go for: **BEST BUY:** Texas Economy super, £50. Very cheap, easy to use and copes well with changes in water pressure.

● **Some electric showers** restrict heat, saving energy. **BEST BUYS:** Heatra Sada Sapphire, £75, and Redring Super 75, £80.

These articles are based on test reports in *Which?*, an independent monthly magazine available only on subscription. It tests and reports on a variety of services, including money, household appliances and other equipment, motoring, food and health and consumer rights. To find out more about *Which?* — including details of how you can get the magazine free for three months — please write to Dept T, FREEPOST, Herford SG14 1YB, or telephone free on 0800 252100.



Best power shower: Triton T650 (£160)

tions if the mains water is used upstream of the shower unit. **Power shower (£100 to £500)** This is a shower-only mixer with an electric pump to increase the flow rate. It should have its own supply from the cold water cistern and hot water from the side of the hot water cylinder. Once set, the temperature should not change. Disadvantages: it is relatively expensive and more complicated to install than other types, and uses more water and energy than a shower-only mixer.

Bath/shower mixer (from £50) This replaces the existing bath taps. It consists of a hot and cold mixer tap, hose and shower head. A control lets water come out of the head or the taps. It is cheap, quick and easy to fit, but awkward to adjust because you have to bend down to tap level. If someone turns on a tap or flushes a lavatory, the shower can get hotter very quickly.

Shower-only mixer (from £80) This is plumbed directly into the hot and cold supply pipes rather than to the bath taps. It has a control valve (usually fixed to the wall) and a shower head. To minimize temperature variations, it should be fed from the cold water cistern, or be fitted with a valve which has a built-in temperature stabilizer. Advantages include controls set at a convenient height. Once set, the temperature shouldn't change. Disadvantages include the fact that the flow rate can be unsatisfactory, but a booster pump (about £70) can increase the flow to that of a power shower.

Instant electric (from £50) This type is plumbed directly into the mains water supply. The cold water is heated instantly as it flows over a heating element. It is cheap and you can have a hot shower at any time. However, the unit can suffer from heat fluctua-

Shower power

Taking a shower instead of a bath is an economical way of keeping clean, feeling refreshed, saving money and doing your bit for the environment. When *Which?* tested 37 different showers it came up with some definite recommendations, given in the Buying Guide.

Whatever type of fuel your home uses, a shower is more energy-efficient than a bath, as a shower-only mixer uses about a sixth of the hot water needed by a bath. A power shower uses two-fifths.

Electric showers consume electricity at a very high rate compared with other appliances, but they are still more energy-efficient than a bath because they are used for only a short time. Five minutes under an instantaneous electric shower costs 4p.

Installing a shower yourself should not be attempted unless you are confident that you have all the necessary electrical and plumbing skills, and are sure of all the appropriate regulations. Even if you are confident of your abilities, remember that working with water and electricity can be dangerous.

WHAT ON EARTH IS OXFAM DOING?

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THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

THEATRE

In Arthur Miller's 75th birthday year, British productions of his work are in vogue, and among the most eagerly awaited is the Royal National Theatre's *The Crucible*, which begins previews this week. Tom Wilkinson plays John Proctor, the central character in this drama of witch-hunting and false accusations in 17th-century Salem, Massachusetts, directed by Howard Davies. Wilkinson, who has played the role before, but only in a university production "some years ago, now", said during a break in rehearsals this week: "Great plays have the quality of seeming to have been written yesterday, and this production undoubtedly has an extra resonance because of recent events in eastern Europe. I got to know Arthur Miller when I was in *Ibsen's An Enemy of the People* at the Young Vic and then the Playhouse, using his translation. I was eager to do this play, knowing it and having such respect for him. I had never worked with Howard Davies before, but we have a very cordial relationship so far, very enjoyable." Zoe Wanamaker, Clare Holman, Michael Bryant, David Burke and Oliver Cotton are also in the cast. Olivier, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2253). Previews from Fri. Opens May 31. *Tony Patrick*

BURN THIS: Lanford Wilson's play, Robert Allan Ackerman directs John Malkovich, Lou Lipton, Juliet Stevenson and Michael Simkins. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, London NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews from Wed. Opens May 29.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: Start of the season, directed by Lindsay Posner, with Karl Johnson, Susan Tracy and Martin Clunes. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 (071-486 2431). Previews from Fri. Opens May 29.

ORION AND THE GREAT BEAR: Bizarre-sounding play by Vivian Fongnie, directed and designed by John Vernon. Croydon Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-880 4060). Opens Wed.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY: Graham Greene adaptation, Tim Luscombe directs Edward Litheridge. Chichester Festival (0243 781312). Previews from Mon. Opens Wed.

JAZZ

NEWCASTLE JAZZ FESTIVAL: Opening up with the Stan Tracey Big Band (Sat May 26). The Playhouse, Newcastle (081 232 7079/6520). Sat-Sun Jun 3.

ROBIN EUBANKS/STEVE TURRE QUINTET: Two trombones and the proficient neo-bop of Blue Note pianist Renee Rosnes. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071-439 0747). Mon-Sat.

TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN & CHARLIE CHRISTIAN: Fats Waller guitarist Al Casey teams up with the Dave Shepherd Quintet. Pizza Express, London W1 (071-439 8722). Fri.

PHOTOGRAPHY

20 DUTCH PHOTOGRAPHERS: The work of 20 photographers from PANL, the photographers' Association of the Netherlands, which was set up six months ago to promote the work of professional lensmen working in the fields of fashion, editorial and advertising. This exhibition was put together before PANL's formation by a selection panel including the British photographer, Brian Griffin, whose own work has a high international reputation. The Association Gallery, London EC1 (071-608 1445). Mon-Jun 1.



Living it up: Adventures in Motion Pictures aboard *The Elizabethan* paddle-steamer — Keith Brazil, Matthew Bourne, Carrollyne Antom and Bill Eldridge

MA'S MUSIC: The outstanding cellist Yo Yo Ma plays sonatas by Rachmaninov and Brahms (the grim E minor one), Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* and a Capriccio by the American William Bolcom. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8881). Tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL PERAHLA: Continuing the International Piano Series, Murray Perahia, a marvellous player, performs Franck's *Prelude, Choral and Fugue*, Schumann's Op 17 Fantasy, Liszt's Spanish Rhapsody and a Chopin group. Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Mon.

KOUT/MORK: The City of

CONCERTS

Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Jiri Kout in Smetana's *Bartered Bride* Overture, Martin's splendid Symphony No 6 and, with Truls Mork as soloist, Dvořák's Cello Concerto. Town Hall, Birmingham (021 2363889). Tues.

NORRINGTON BEETHOVEN: Roger Norrington conducts The Philharmonia in an all-Beethoven programme. Festival Hall, Wed.

MISTS, DANCES: In a notable contribution to the Bohemian Festival, Malcolm Binns brings

forward Janáček's *In the Mists*, Smetana's 10 Czech Dances, Dvořák's Variations Op 36 and Vítězslav's Sonata Op 20 — a good cross-section of Czech piano music. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (071-935 2141). Thurs.

METOPES, MAZURKAS: In a programme slightly different from that originally advertised, Janina Fialkowska continues the Szymanowski festival with his *Metopes*, Mazurkas Op 50 Nos 15 and 16, Scriabin's great Sonata No 5, Debussy's *Images* I, Chopin's Mazurkas Op 41 and Scherzo No 4 — a richly rewarding programme. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Fri.

Some of the biggest names in the musical world are giving their services for tomorrow's all-day extravaganza on the South Bank. Under the banner Music for Life, Graham Vick has brought together a staggering array of talent on behalf of Crusaid, the charity that raises money for the fight against Aids. The centrepieces are the evening's gala concert with Simon Rattle conducting songs from *Porgy and Bess* with members of the Glyndebourne cast, and the four-hour Musical Mystery Tour down the river, which will take in a Richard Jones staging of Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento*, a performance of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* in "a stunning 18th-century setting," and a special presentation of Matthew Bourne's hit show *The Infernal Galop* — a satirical view of Parisian nightlife with dance company Adventures in Motion Pictures. Other celebrated participants include the Labèque Sisters, Evelyn Glennie, Michael Tilson Thomas, Fou Ts'ong, Barry Douglas, Sherrill Milnes, Felicity Lott, Anne Evans, John Tomlinson, David Wilson-Johnson, Yvonne Kenny, Rose English, Sheila Hancock, Dorothy Tutin and Jeremy Irons. Songs have also been commissioned from Berio, Lutoslawski, Maxwell Davies, Stephen Sondheim and Ravi Shankar. Box-office (071-928 8800). *Barry Millington*

ROCK

BILLY JOEL: Underrated piano man with another new set of tunes from his album *Storm Front*. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (081-900 1234). Mon, Tues.

LENNY KRAVITZ: Young charismatic dance-master whose soulful sound blends equal quantities of pop, rock and funk. Leeds Polytechnic (0532 430171) tomorrow; Birmingham Irish Centre (021 622 2314) Tues.

GEORGE STRAIT: Winner of the Texan Country Music Association entertainer of the year award. Dominion Theatre, London W1 (071-580 9562). Tomorrow.

FESTIVALS

BATH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Celebration of Spanish culture including Cumbra Flamenco dancers, Hesperian early music ensemble and guitarist Peco Peña. Festival Office, Bath (0225 445551). From Fri.

CHIPPENHAM FOLK FESTIVAL: Nearly 200 events of folk music, song, dance, crafts, workshops and children's events. Festival Office, Bridge Centre, Chippenhams (0249 657190). From Fri.

MALVERN FESTIVAL: Cambridge Theatre Company presents *Mrs Warren's Profession*; Prunella Scales in Queen Victoria evening; G&S with ENO; and English music from Byrd to Fozz and Britten. Festival theatre, Malvern (0684 572725). From tomorrow.

NOTTINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Highlights include Stephen Lowe's new musical, *Love in the Land of the Lullabies*; Georgian State Dance Company; G&S with D'Oly Carte. Box office, Victoria Centre, Nottingham (0602 419741). From Sat May 26.

RIPON CHARTER FESTIVAL: Celebration of granting of Ripon's charter in 886, with drama, recitals and exhibitions. Festival Trust, Ripon, North Yorkshire (0765 706681).

CINEMA

DREAMS (PG): Akira Kurosawa's latest epic — a richly rewarding semi-autobiographical fantasy. Lumiere, London WC2 (071-836 0691). Screen on the Hill, London NW3 (071-435 3366). From Fri.

LOVERBOY (15): Bland comedy with Patrick Dempsey as a frisky pizza delivery boy. Cannon Oxford Street, London W1 (071-630 0310). From Fri.

HARLEM NIGHTS (15): Eddie Murphy in over his head as the writer-director-star of this tired tale set in a nightclub. Plaza, London SW1 (071-437 1234). From Fri.

Jim Henson, who died suddenly on Wednesday, did much to extend the boundaries of screen fantasy. His final film *The Witches* — a spirited adaptation of Roald Dahl's popular children's book — found him working in tandem with another extraordinary talent, Nicolas Roeg. Henson, the executive producer, provided the services of his Creature Shop — experts at the special effects essential for a tale of hideous witches planning to turn Britain's children into mice. The director Nicolas Roeg — encouraged by his young children's enthusiasm for the book — supplied his own strong imagination, particularly in the early Norwegian scenes. Once both parents of the young hero, Luke, have been killed in a car crash, the action shifts to England: Luke and his grandmother arrive at a grand seaside hotel just as the witches, disguised as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, converge for a convention. Anjelica Huston (above), enjoying herself hugely, plays the chief witch; Mai Zetterling — returning briefly to acting after a 15-year absence — is the grandmother; while Luke is played by fresh-faced Jason Fisher. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (071-836 6279), from Fri, certificate PG. *Geoff Brown*



GALLERIES

BIG PAINTINGS PT II: A further selection of the paintings made for the planned — but never built — Hall of Remembrance at the close of the First World War; works by, among others, Wyndham Lewis, Paul Nash, George Clausen and C. R. W. Nevinson. Imperial War Museum, London SE1 (071-416 5000). From Mon.

IMAGES OF THE TEES: Breezy, impressionistic paintings and drawings by Len Tabner and posed photographs by Ian Macdonald, which reveal a Middlesbrough in transition between heavy industry and something as yet unspecified. Polytechnic Galleries, Newcastle (091 235 8424). From Thurs.

NEW NORTH: Works by 16 contemporary northern artists. Tate Gallery, Liverpool (051 709 3223). From Wed.

THE RUSSIAN POSTER: From the revolution to perestroika in 65 examples of both state and, more recently, unofficial graphics. Smith Art Gallery, Stirling (0786 71917). From Sat May 26.

BARRY FLANAGAN: Nine new monumental bronzes, all featuring the sculptor's *Leimnait* — a hare. Waddington Galleries, London W1 (071-437 8611). From Wed.

SUNDAY TIMES WATERCOLOUR COMPETITION: A selection from the 2,000 entries to this important national competition. Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 6844). From Fri.

DAVID HISCOCK: New works exploring the boundaries between painted, photographed and sculpted imagery by a leading stylist and *Vogue* photographer. (Upstairs: Nick Waplington, winner of the Kodak Young Photographers' Award). Pomeroy Purdy Gallery, London SE1 (071-237 6082). From Fri.

OPERA

GLYNDEBOURNE: The new production by America's *enfant terrible* of Mozart's *Magic Flute* will give Glyndebourne's patrons plenty to chew over during their long picnic interval. Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111). Mon and Wed.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Robin Holloway's distillation of Samuel Richardson's mammoth novel *Clarissa* addresses the theme of sexual attraction from a 20th-century standpoint. Oliver Knussen conducts. London Coliseum, St. Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Tues and Fri.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Static production by Faggoni, but strong cast includes Carol Vaness, Sergei Leiferkus, Alexei Steblianko and Eva Randová. Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). Wed and Sat May 26.

SALES

DYSON'S DELIGHTS: Three day sale of contents from John Dyson & Sons, an old-fashioned quality jewellers in Leeds. Sotheby's, Chester (0244 315531). Viewing Mon, Tues and Wed as sales permit. Sales Tues, Wed and Thurs.

BLUE JOHN: Unusual 19th-century Blue John Gablet (£2,000-£3,000) has popped up in this good medium quality furniture sale. Lawrence Fine Art of Cwrekerne, Somerset (0460 73041). Viewing Mon by appointment, Tues, Wed. Sales Thurs.

FLOWERY: More than 200 lots of charming flower and garden pictures. £200-£400 upwards. Bonhams, London SW7 (071-584 9161). Viewing tomorrow, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs. Sale Thurs.

STUDIO SALE: Marjorie Mort, an underrated artist who died aged 89 last December, comes to auction with this comprehensive sale. David Lay, the Penzance Auction House (0736 61414). Sale Thurs.

BRIDGE

Zia Mahmood confirmed that he is the man for the big occasion when he won the Omar Sharif Individual in Atlantic City a week ago, collecting \$40,000 of the \$200,000 purse.

Individual tournaments have long been *démodé*, but the Goren bridge travel and publishing organization sees them as a way to launch a kind of Pro circuit, avoiding the ethical problems that can arise with established partnerships. This could help restore interest in the top performers at grass-roots level, at present at a low ebb because of convoluted-bidding methods.

Rubber-bridge players as well as duplicate addicts will recognize in this auction a recurring situation.

W	N	E	S
No	2 ⁺	No	2 ⁺
No	3 ⁺	No	3 ⁺
No	No	No	No

Neither side is vulnerable and the no-trump opening is strong. East holds:

W	N	E	S
♦7	♦Q732	♦Q782	♦AJS

It seems clear that North-South have no more than a 4-4 fit, for with five spades North would be unlikely to use Stayman. It is also clear that the partnership is at full stretch, and that the 4-1 trump break may be hard to overcome.

A double by the short trump hand will seldom go badly wrong, and may mislead declarer. Surprisingly, only Zia doubled as East. Partner turned up with A-J-9-x of spades and the pair scored 300.

There is a neat solution to the next deal, but it eluded most declarers.

Dealer West. Neither vul.

W	N	E	S
♠AK643	♠AK52	♠AK52	♠AK52
♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ

North opened one spade. South bid 1NT and North raised to 3NT. West led the 10 of hearts and South played low from dummy, East following with the 2.

South won with the king and led a diamond, successfully finessing the jack. Four diamond tricks would be enough for game, so South continued with the ace of diamonds, on which East showed out. West held off the next diamond and South, short of entries, had to try the spades, but the 4-2 break left him with only eight tricks. When he gave up a spade the defenders cashed three hearts and the king of diamonds.

When Zia played the hand he too began by finessing the jack of diamonds, but then he continued with the queen. Had West taken this trick, Zia would have been home, so he ducked. Now Zia tested spades, gave up a spade trick, and got home for the loss of one spade and three heart tricks. The defenders had no fatal diamond to cash.

Peter Olof Sundelin of Stockholm, known to the bridge world as "P.O.", would earn his card if a Pro circuit ever came into being, but he was out of luck when he encountered Zia in this deal:

Dealer East. East-West vulnerable.

W	N	E	S
♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54
♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ

South opened one spade. North bid 1NT and South raised to 3NT. West led the 10 of hearts and South played low from dummy, East following with the 2.

South won with the king and led a diamond, successfully finessing the jack. Four diamond tricks would be enough for game, so South continued with the ace of diamonds, on which East showed out. West held off the next diamond and South, short of entries, had to try the spades, but the 4-2 break left him with only eight tricks. When he gave up a spade the defenders cashed three hearts and the king of diamonds.

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At the end of last month chess history was made when a chess computer defeated Anatoly Karpov in a game in Munich. Admittedly this was in a simultaneous display, where the former World Champion confronted 24 opponents at the same time. Nevertheless, this is the first time that a computer has ever beaten a human World Champion.

Although the machine in question is manufactured in Germany, the winning program was written by Professor Richard Lang, a British scientist who lives and works in Cheltenham. The problem in facing a top-class computer is its incredible number-crunching ability in terms of move calculation. Deep Thought, the great American mainframe, can visualize one million positions every second. However, humans can be encouraged by Arthur Koestler's calculation that at the rate of one million moves per second, it would take a computer 10¹⁰ seconds to calculate a 25-move game perfectly in advance. Ever since our planetary system came into being, 4.5 billion years ago, no more than 10¹⁰ seconds have elapsed.

Moreover, Professor Nathan Divinsky, chess statistician and professor of mathematics at the University of British Columbia, has calculated that in order to publish all possible moves of all possible 25-move games in a series of books the size of *Batford Chess Openings* (slightly smaller than a telephone directory), one would have to cover the surface of the globe and fill all free space

in every direction to the distance of the furthest known galaxy many times over before the task would be accomplished.

In the game which follows, Karpov outplays the machine and wins a piece. Nevertheless, Black's horde of pawns provided significant compensation, which made the win for Karpov extremely difficult. On move 46 (see diagram), Karpov, perhaps frustrated by the machine's excellent defence, made an incautious move which permitted the computer to liberate, advance and ultimately promote its passed pawn.

White: Anatoly Karpov; Black: Megaphone Portoroze Computer. Munich, April 1990. Queen's Gambit, Slav Defence.

W	N	E	S
♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54
♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ

White plays and wins.

W	N	E	S
♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54
♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ

White plays and wins.

W	N	E	S
♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54	♠AK54
♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ	♥AKQJ
♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ	♦AKQJ
♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ	♣AKQJ

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2181

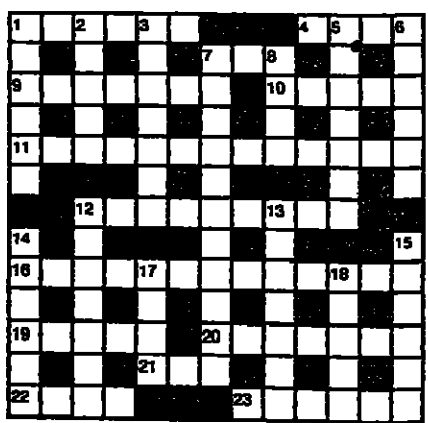
Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, May 24. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, May 26.

ACROSS

- 1 Moorish citadel (6)
- 4 Stage (4)
- 7 Church bench (3)
- 9 Lullaby (7)
- 10 Engaged (2,3)
- 11 Bilingual animal (1,3)
- 12 Understir (9)
- 16 Barren (3-10)
- 19 Hesitation (5)
- 20 Circular panel (7)
- 21 Windmill (3)
- 22 Wicked (4)
- 23 Academic fusspot (6)

DOWN

- 1 Dub (6)
- 2 Precipitous (5)
- 3 Draw (7)
- 5 Sightseer (7)
- 6 Lake better (6)
- 7 Trailblazer (11)
- 8 Wine sot (4)
- 12 Chaudigari citizen (7)
- 13 Block (7)
- 14 One and only (6)
- 15 Catapult missile (6)
- 17 Hindquarters (4)
- 18 S Asia sub-continent (5)



SOLUTION TO NO 2180

(Yesterday's concise crossword)

- ACROSS: 8 Vanilla 9 Nepal 10 Woo 11 Violation 12 Demon 14 Dithery 17 Nure 18 Mound 22 Propeller 24 Wok 25 Lic- 26 Rotunda
- DOWN: 1 Avowed 2 Inform 3 Slovenly 4 Eamon de Valera 5 Anna 6 Splice 7 Plenty 13 Ecu 15 Tennyson 16 Run 17 Napalm 18 Rooted 20 Unwind 21 Diktat 23 Erne

The winners of prize concise No 2175 are: Sunil Kamhi of Ilford, Essex, and Mrs A. Anderson of Deedle Gardens, Aberdeen.

SOLUTION TO NO 2175 (last Saturday's prize concise)

- ACROSS: 1 Aviary 4 Calm 7 VAT 9 Adenoma 10 Ovoid 11 Halls 12 Testified 16 Toad in the hole 19 Facet 20 Opaline 21 Own 22 Seed 23 Street
- DOWN: 1 Apathy 2 Icon 3 Rioters 5 Aroused 6 Medley 7 Valadiction 8 Toga 12 Tranche 13 Inexact 14 Suffs 15 Re- pen 17 Into 18 Olive

Name: _____ Address: _____

Raymond Keene

Little sympathy for Leighton

By Roddy Forsyth

WHATEVER Jim Leighton's feelings about the events of this week, perhaps the most turbulent of his career, he was not the recipient of any noticeable measure of sympathy from the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh, yesterday.

Roxburgh named the Manchester United goalkeeper in his squad of 22 for Scotland's trip to Malta next week, a pool which will, barring accidents, effectively be the travelling party for the World Cup finals themselves.

Leighton, who was omitted by the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, from the Old Trafford team to play Crystal Palace in Thursday night's FA Cup final replay, will not take part in Scotland's final domestic warm-up match, against Poland at Hampden Park this afternoon, but then the selection of Andy Gorm, of Hibernian, as Scotland's goalkeeper was known 10 days ago.

Asked if he had offered any words of comfort to Leighton, Roxburgh replied: "Aye, I told him to be here next Thursday and to make sure his lawn was mowed. Any player worth his salt has to have it in him to overcome these setbacks, and his problems don't affect us in the slightest."

"Obviously he is disappointed, but he has had other bad times this season and he has come back from them. He had to play unexpectedly against Argentina and he played well. I'm not too worried about Jim."

If Leighton does require any fortification of his morale, he might reflect that he is singularly more fortunate than his colleague at Manchester United, Brian McClair. Although McClair played well at Wembley on Thursday, Roxburgh rejected any suggestion that there should be surprise at the player's omission from the final 22.

"It's certainly not the impression I have got from anybody, I have told Brian McClair that I am disappointed that things have not worked out the way we hoped they would. We admire him and that is why we have had him with us before, but the bottom line is how people perform when they're playing for us."

Another forward who will not travel either to Malta, or to Italy, is Robert Fleck, of Norwich City, despite his heartening performance in the Scots' recent 1-0 victory over Argentina.

The fact that he is suffering from a damaged knee is not the decisive factor in his absence, but rather Roxburgh's concern about achieving a balanced squad, one which slightly favours cover in defence.

On the question of Scottish confidence, Roxburgh said: "Morale is not the problem. These players are going to the World Cup, and for many of them, it is their last chance to do so. They don't need more motivation than that. Anyway, although we would have liked to win, our practice matches, we tried things we would never have attempted in the World Cup proper."

"Other countries have done that too, which is why the Soviet Union lost to Israel recently. These things happen and what we want now is to get something from the match against Poland, who, according to Bobby Robson are a better team than Sweden."

If Scotland manage a victory against the Poles, it will be an exceptional event, because the Scots have never beaten their visitors at Hampden and have only ever registered one victory against them.

SCOTLAND: A Gorm (Hibernian); R Gough (Rangers); G Gillespie (Liverpool); C Leven (Heart of Midlothian); M Malpas (Dundee United); S McCall (Everton); R Aitken (Newcastle United); G McAllister (Leicester City); M MacLeod (Borussia Dortmund); M McColl (Rangers).

They are transferring a clutch of players and replacing trainer Dino Zoff with Luigi Maifredi, of Bologna.



Here's the catch: the goalkeeper, Bryan Gunn, makes a save during training with Scotland, under the watchful eye of colleague, Andy Gorm

WORLD CUP SQUAD

Goalkeepers

J Leighton (Manchester United); A Gorm (Hibernian); B Gunn (Norwich City).

Defenders

R Gough (Rangers); S McKimmie (Aberdeen); M Malpas (Dundee United); C Leven (Heart of Midlothian); A McLeish (Aberdeen); G Gillespie (Liverpool); D McPherson (Heart of Midlothian); M MacLeod (Borussia Dortmund).

Midfield players

R Aitken (Newcastle United); J Bett (Aberdeen); J Collins (Hibernian); P McStay (Celtic); S McCatt (Everton); G McAllister (Leicester City).

Forwards

A McColl (Rangers); M Johnston (Rangers); G Durie (Chelsea); A McNally (Bayern Munich); D Cooper (Motherwell).

Hearts plan move from Tynecastle

PLANS to move Heart of Midlothian Football Club to a green-belt site on the western edge of Edinburgh have been confirmed by Wallace Mercer, the club chairman (a Special Correspondent writes).

Hearts are seeking planning permission for a 27,500 all-seater stadium - to be completed within two years for £20 million - as part of a £200 million development by David Murray, an Edinburgh businessman and chairman of Rangers Football Club.

Mercer, aware of criticism of the site, said: "I'm not interested in what some local politicians, who might only be in office for a year, might think. If the people wish it, the politicians will listen. We want to work together with the politicians."

Mercer, who took over as chairman in 1981 and who now owns 76 per cent of Hearts' stock, stressed that the move away from Tynecastle, where the club has been for 110 years, comes under pressure from the Taylor Report.

"It's not for the people of my generation but for those born tomorrow and in the next 10-15 years," he said. "The proposal meets all the requirements that we would wish to take this city through to the next century in terms of football stadia."

Mercer said that the initial responses from supporters' clubs had been positive and the club would apply next week for permission to turn Tynecastle over for residential development. "It's a new era but we'll always cherish Tynecastle," Mercer stressed.

He reassured supporters: "Not one player will be sold to help finance the development of a new stadium."

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Gower's role is still uncertain following recall

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

DAVID Gower was yesterday restored to the arena he should never have been asked to leave. After a winter spent wondering if his England career was over, he is promptly back in his rightful place for next week's Test Trophy international against New Zealand.

A telephone call from Graham Gooch, his friend and successor as captain, informed Gower that he had won parole from the harsh sentence meted out last autumn. As he has barely had the chance to demand a recall by weight of runs, the suspicion persists that his exile was either short-term shock treatment or a hideous mistake.

Gower is included in a 13-man party for the matches at Headingley, on Wednesday, and the Oval, two days later. Where he bats, or possibly even if he plays, will be dictated by events at Ilkeston on Monday, when Wayne Larkins aims to prove, in a second team match, that he has recovered from a fractured finger. Neil Fairbrother has been put on stand-by.

Larkins is lucky to be given such preferential treatment. He has scored one run in three first-class innings this season and, apart from a century against Scotland, his one-day form is little better. His retention, with form and fitness under a cloud, may be loyal but is hardly logical.

It can be argued that Gower's treatment owes nothing to either loyalty or logic. He was omitted from winter tour plans in a callous fashion which showed no respect to one of only three Englishmen to play 100 Tests and reflected little credit on the management of those in charge.

He felt hurt and bewildered but, admirably, he shut out the past and set his mind to the future, moving home and changing counties in the close season. He expected, and said as much, that he would need to fight his way back. Yesterday, one sensed, he was surprised it had happened so swiftly.

"Let's just say I was prepared for a different scenario, for having to wait a little longer," he said. But Micky Stewart has happened to watch me whenever I have made runs this season, which can't have done any harm.

"The new environment at Hampshire has been helpful. It is impossible to say if I would have achieved this by staying where I was but it is a very happy atmosphere here."

Gower witnessed Gooch's leadership style at first hand this winter and says: "There is a new, stricter regime in the camp but I know I can adapt to that. There have been misconceptions in the past about my attitude to work."

Although he has frequently admitted that one-day cricket does not motivate him to the same degree as Test matches, Gower will not be short of incentives. "I don't think I will have any trouble with the adrenalin this time. I look at this as a stepping stone and I know it is important to make runs in these two games."

Gower will open with Gooch if Larkins is ruled out; otherwise, ironically, he will find himself contesting the last middle order place with the manager's son, Alec Stewart.

Derek Pringle has predictably been chosen to bat at No. 6 and act as the fifth bowler. It is a role he has filled adequately in one-day cricket in recent years. But the emergence of Graham Rose and the resurgence of Ian Botham could be of greater interest later in the summer.

Others who are presumably being saved for the more serious business are Mike Atherton and Devon Malcolm. Lancashire's Atherton is in prolific form but it may be thought that his technique should not be compromised in overs cricket; Malcolm is England's fastest bowler but not their straightest. End of story.

Angus Fraser is being risked, despite playing only one championship match since breaking down in the West Indies two months ago, and, with Hemmings's variety so valuable, the final bowling place will probably be between Lewis and DeFreitas.

● Leicestershire's Australian coach, Bobby Simpson, yesterday congratulated the England selectors on picking Lewis. "Chris is an exciting and talented player who is going to get even better," he said. "We have not seen the best of him yet by any means. He's a great choice."

● Record receipts of more than £200,000 have been taken for the match at the Oval. No tickets will be available on the day except for Surrey members, who have been advised to book their seats before Wednesday to ensure entry.

England party

G A Gooch (Essex, capt)
P A J DeFreitas (Lancs)
A R C Fraser (Middlesex)
D I Gower (Hants)
E E Hemmings (Notts)
A J Lamb (Northants)
W Larkins (Northants)
C C Lewis (Essex)
D R Pringle (Essex)
R C Russell (Glouce)
G C Small (Warwick)
R A Smith (Hants)
A J Stewart (Surrey)
N H Fairbrother (Lancs) on stand-by for Larkins.

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One-day averages, page 46

Juventus's record fee

JUVENTUS yesterday paid a world record £25 billion lire (about £12.2 million) for Roberto Baggio, Fiorentina's Italian international midfielder player. The fee is worth more than twice AC Milan's record payment to Eindhoven for the Dutch international, Ruud Gullit.

Angry Fiorentina supporters poured into the streets of Florence where they heard the news of the impending move some hours earlier. Police had to disperse a crowd of about 500, who blocked traffic outside the headquarters of the club.

Antonio Caliendo, Baggio's agent, said on Thursday that the transfer, which would give him 1.8 billion lire (£880,000) a year plus fringe benefits for a four-year contract.

Juventus, one of Italy's richest clubs, are remodeling their side after a lean run of five seasons, broken only by victory in the Italian and UEFA Cups this year.

They are transferring a clutch of players and replacing trainer Dino Zoff with Luigi Maifredi, of Bologna.

United may go for Southall

JIM Leighton, the Scottish international goalkeeper who was omitted from the Manchester United team for Thursday night's FA Cup final replay, has indicated a desire to remain at the club.

Although Leighton was still silent about the decision of Alex Ferguson, the United manager, to leave him out, Leighton's agent, Jerome Anderson, said that his client would not be submitting a transfer request.

However, it seems probable that Ferguson's preference for Les Sealey, on loan from Luton Town, has signalled the end of Leighton's career at Old Trafford.

Ferguson's long association with Leighton will not stop him looking for a replacement - and this will be Neville Southall, the Welsh international goalkeeper, who wants to end his nine-year association with Everton.

Although Everton rejected an official transfer request only a fortnight ago, further talks are possible with Colin Harvey next week.

Although Southall would relish the opportunity to join United the stumbling block is Everton's price for a player who is regarded as the finest goalkeeper in Europe.

If Everton decide to make Southall available for transfer they would demand at least £2 million, more than twice the fee which Arsenal paid to Queen's Park Rangers earlier this week for David Seaman, the England international goalkeeper.

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Ferguson's long association with Leighton will not stop him looking for a replacement - and this will be Neville Southall, the Welsh international goalkeeper, who wants to end his nine-year association with Everton.

Although Leighton was still silent about the decision of Alex Ferguson, the United manager, to leave him out, Leighton's agent, Jerome Anderson, said that his client would not be submitting a transfer request.

However, it seems probable that Ferguson's preference for Les Sealey, on loan from Luton Town, has signalled the end of Leighton's career at Old Trafford.

Ferguson's long association with Leighton will not stop him looking for a replacement - and this will be Neville Southall, the Welsh international goalkeeper, who wants to end his nine-year association with Everton.

Although Everton rejected an official transfer request only a fortnight ago, further talks are possible with Colin Harvey next week.

Although Southall would relish the opportunity to join United the stumbling block is Everton's price for a player who is regarded as the finest goalkeeper in Europe.

If Everton decide to make Southall available for transfer they would demand at least £2 million, more than twice the fee which Arsenal paid to Queen's Park Rangers earlier this week for David Seaman, the England international goalkeeper.

Giving golf the kinaesthetic birdie

THIS column has always found it hard to take golf seriously. This personal failing is amply compensated for by an occasion called the First World Scientific Conference of Golf, which takes place in July at St Andrews University, with approval and funding from the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

The handouts I have been given are enthralling. Take Theme One: Human Factors Affecting Golf Performance. Under a list headed "Other Abstracts Submitted", I read the following titles: biomechanical analysis of the optimum golf swing; kinaesthetic perception and skills; effect of skill level on muscle activity; visual alignment in putting; back pain in Swedish tournament players; heart rate, personality and shot-making; strategies versus visual bias on aiming accuracy; normality and independence of scores; and spinal shrinkage.

The technological factors investigated are just as baffling and include aerodynamic lift and drag, golf-club control by passive measurement and computerized club-ball interaction. A letter from Martin Farrelly, the congress director, expresses concern that the Press might emphasize the trivial side of all this. I am asked not to ignore "the weightier, more scientific information". I don't think I could if I tried.



SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Finger-flickin' good

THE football World Cup has been upstaged. A few days before the big kick-off, all its thunder will be stolen by the sixth Panini Subuteo World Cup - Subuteo being finger-flicking table footy. The event takes place in Rome on June 2 and 3 at a cost of £150,000, with 26 nations taking part, including Australia, the United States, Singapore, Finland and Israel. The defending champion is Willi Hofman, of Baden, in Switzerland, but, at 20, 10 years younger than Mario Baghetto, from Bari, in Italy, and, a leading Scot, is a Scottish joiner called John McGiffen. John Waddingtons, the manufacturer of the game, has insured all the players' flicking fingers for £50,000 each.

And baby makes drei

THE more we hear of glasnost, the more we hear how unpleasant it was seeking sporting glory for East Germany. Heike Drechsler won a long-jump silver and two sprinting bronzes at the Olympics in Seoul and two golds at the 1986 European championships. She recently told a

West German magazine that for years she was forbidden to get pregnant. She was married to an East German footballer, Andreas Drechsler, in 1983, and mentioned during an interview shortly afterwards that she wanted a child. The athletics authorities responded instantly. Drechsler was told that this was forbidden until her career was over. However, as life changes for the country, so it has for the Drechslers. They have a son, and, at the age of 25, Frau Drechsler plans to return to international athletics this summer and to compete in the European championships in Split.

Doctors on the run

ONE of the great sporting events of the summer will, of course, be the World Doctors' Games. Yes, really: they take place in Perpignan, France, from June 17 to 23 and naturally it is serious. The Games are recognized by the International Olympic Committee. One oddity of the occasion is that there will be no statutory doping controls, though there is still the possibility of swoops on the unsuspecting medics.

Bullet-proof Arlott

THE BBC has just issued a double album of John Arlott's cricket commentaries. I am not a pursuer of nostalgia for its own sake but Arlott was a genius in his medium and he repays study. My favourite mot is not included: "That ball went through Boycott's defence like a bullet

through a hole in a Henry Moore." But there is plenty more to delight: Clive Lloyd hitting a boundary "like a man knocking a thistle-top off with a walking stick." The genius was more in the simple vividness than in the excellent jokes. His spoken words are a treat as well as a lesson to all sport's media people. So, indeed, is one of Arlott's personal mottoes, C. L. R. James's famous line: "What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?"

Crying for Argentinians

THE polo fraternity is bracing itself for another Argentinian summer. Argentinians are allowed to play here again, as the polo establishment belatedly put the Falklands War behind it in late 1988. Since then, the competition to acquire the best Argentinians is hotter than ever. The going rate for these dashing lads is, I learn from June's *Harpers and Queen*, £1,000 per goal-rating per month. A 10-goal player, then, is on £10,000 a month for the five-month season "paid on top of accommodation, cars, expenses, ponies, equipment and a posse of female fans." One polo wife explained: "They eat with us, they train with us, they sleep with us. We own them for three months."

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SHINTY

BARRY GREENWOOD

There have been bigger occasions since, with three European finals, both domestic finals and, in Mexico, the third place play-off between France and Belgium. "That was a beautiful game because there was no pressure, but it was one step away from the ultimate prize. I'm ambitious, I want to go to Italy and referee the final. I must be the only

Flag of convenience: Courtney runs the line at Rochdale as part of his preparation for the World Cup finals in Italy

A headmaster in a primary school in Speanymoor in his other life — one would be tempted to say in his spare time if he did not clearly devote as much energy to his charges as to his refereeing commitments — his refereeing is magisterial in the best sense, his authority all the more imposing for being quietly exercised.

"I'm a professional. I had prepared for the semi-final for months, and I'm a professional in my approach and attitude. I've taken

"In the last five years, the increasing pace and physical commitment in the game put a tremendous responsibility on the

But Courtney insists that overall the game is easier to referee than it was when he began at the beginning of the Seventies. "There are very few difficult players," he said, laughingly refusing to name them, "because the over-the-top merchants have gone."

The Wimbledon style is difficult in a way because the ball is in the air so much, and there are more arms being used in the game than ever before. But it makes for an exciting game. I don't care what systems are being used as long as I'm in control, and I enjoy refereeing teams like Wimbledon and Crystal Palace."

From a Special Correspondent

team which won the MacKay Cup for primary schools 10 years ago.

Although they may not have had such distinguished coaches, they have, over the past few years, provided the main opposition to Kildare Athletic in the

GLENNORCHY: F MacFarlane-Barrow, D Livingstone, A MacKechrie, J Cowan, D MacLennan, J Gibson, M MacFarlane.

Rothmans speeds nearer to leaders

After a week of playing second fiddle to their New Zealand rivals on Fisher & Paykel, Peter Blake and his crew aboard *Stargazer 2* were back in the limelight five miles to the west. However, the game was not as close as it seemed. Since *Stargazer 2* was on the opposite tack to Grant Dalton's yacht and making two knots less speed, her lead may have been

brief. Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss solo, Merit, leapfrogged three boats overnight to take third place, closing the gap on the leaders to 20 miles.

Rothmans, the leading British maxi, which must beat Merit into Southampton by 8 1/2 hours, has been in the lead since it continued to set the fastest speed yesterday to move up to fourth, an equal distance from the finish to the Spanish entry Fortuna.

Visitors designed outright does not perform well in light airs and is expected to drop back, leaving the two New Zealand ketches—Merit and *Whitby*—to fight it out as they have done on each of the previous five legs.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 10:58 GMT, yesterday): Merit (Swiss) 1, 20 miles ahead of 1, Swissmax 2 (P Blake, NZ), 785 kts; 3, Merit (P Blake, NZ), 765 kts; 4, Rothmans 4 (J Smith, NZ), 760 kts; 5, Fortuna 5 (C. de la Card (P Nelson, Spain), 757; 6, Belmonte Finland (P Markimo, Finl), 627; 7, Fazzis (V. Fazzis, Italy), 625; 8, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,024; 9, Gatotama (Jr) Jan, 1,025; 10, Newport Enterprise (Jr) Salmon, Gaby, 1,025; 11, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,025; 12, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 13, Charles Jourdan (A Gabbay, NZ), 1,071; 14, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 15, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 16, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 17, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 18, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 19, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 20, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 21, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 22, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 23, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 24, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 25, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 26, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 27, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 28, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 29, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 30, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 31, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 32, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 33, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 34, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 35, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 36, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 37, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 38, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 39, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 40, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 41, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 42, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 43, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 44, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 45, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 46, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 47, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 48, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 49, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 50, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 51, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 52, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 53, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 54, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 55, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 56, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 57, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 58, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 59, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 60, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 61, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 62, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 63, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 64, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 65, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 66, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 67, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 68, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 69, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 70, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 71, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 72, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 73, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 74, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 75, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 76, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 77, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 78, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 79, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 80, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 81, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 82, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 83, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 84, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 85, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 86, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 87, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 88, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 89, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 90, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 91, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 92, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 93, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 94, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 95, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 96, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 97, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 98, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 99, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 100, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 101, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 102, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 103, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 104, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 105, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 106, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 107, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 108, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 109, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 110, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 111, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 112, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 113, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 114, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 115, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 116, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 117, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 118, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 119, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 120, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 121, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 122, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 123, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 124, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 125, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 126, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 127, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 128, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 129, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 130, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 131, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 132, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 133, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 134, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 135, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 136, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 137, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 138, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 139, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 140, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 141, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 142, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 143, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 144, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 145, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 146, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 147, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 148, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 149, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 150, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 151, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 152, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 153, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 154, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 155, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 156, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 157, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 158, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 159, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 160, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 161, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 162, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 163, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 164, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 165, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 166, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 167, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,071; 168, *Whitby* (NZ), 1,07

Mercedes lead race to pole

By Jeremy Hart

THE two Mercedes Benz sports cars, driven by Jean-Louis Schlesser, of France, and Jochen Mass, of Germany, headed the British Jaguars of Martin Brundle and Andy Wallace to the battle for pole position in the first qualifying session of the Empire Trophy world sports car championship race at Silverstone, which takes place tomorrow.

HYWEL Philippart, the only British competitor in this week's 3500km Atlas Rally through Morocco, risked not finishing his first major desert rally by stopping to administer first aid to a German bicyclist, who had crashed on the final day of the 10-day marathon.

The spokesman for Philippart's team, Honda-

The leading Mercedes, which will be driven by Schlusser and Mauro Baldi, the Italian, in the 300-mile race, lapped the track at an average speed of more than 148mph, in 1min 12.073sec, two seconds inside the track record and a second faster than the leading Jaguar.

The cars have a second

The tough nature of the event and the British rider's unfamiliarity with the technique of long-distance riding prevented him from a higher-placed finish.

The rally was won, in the car class, by Pierre Larigue, of France, in a Mitsubishi. The Japanese manufacturer filled

of boost through their turbochargers," Bailey said, after qualifying in sixth place. "We can't match that in qualifying, but when all the teams reduce boost to complete the race on our fuel allocation it will be a different story."

Mercedes-Benz (Schlesser and Balin), 12.073s; BMW (Meess and Schumacher), 12.105s; Yamaha (Shenzon and Forster), 12.150s; 4. Yamaha (Lamm and Forster), 12.157s; Porsche (Porsche and Naudin), 12.160s; 5. Nissan (Bailey and Bailey), 12.162s; 6. Yamaha (three of the top five places, split by Jacky Ickx, the Belgian former grand prix driver, in a Lada. The winner of the motorcycle class was Stephane Peterhanel, of France, on a Yamaha.

FINANCIAL RESULTS: Cars: 1. Larsson (Mitsubishi), 47,000 francs; 2. Rivers (Lada); 3. Shenzon (Mitsubishi), 35,200; 4. Ickx (Lada), 22,400; 5. Forster (Mitsubishi), 40,000; Motorcycle: 1. Shenzon (Yamaha), 21,600; 2. Chabrieron (Kawasaki), 19,200; 3. Morsani (Mitsubishi), 19,200; 4. Bailey (Nissan), 19,200; 5. Bailey (Nissan), 22,200; 6. Bailey (Nissan), 20,400.

By Keith Blackmore

best team in the lower divisions of the Football League, Bristol Rovers, and the most attractive, Tranmere Rovers. To enjoy success this season, Bristol Rovers won the third division championship and Tranmere will be back at Wembley to play Notts County next Sunday in the first of the third division play-offs.

The final should provide the

Since the Leyland DAF "man of the year" award is the least important of the three, it may not be too much to hope that we will be treated to their most entertaining on Sunday.

They do not lack for individual talent. Nixon is a reliable, occasionally brilliant goal-keeper, and Farnham is as robust as his international namesake and the best sweeper in the lower divisions. McNab, influential in midfield and Muir and Malkin are likely to score. Above all, there is Henry, whose name is synonymous with the team's monkey.

Bristol Rovers' record was all the more remarkable for the fact that the club sold Martyn, the goalkeeper, and to Crystal Palace, and signed a new goalkeeper, David Bedford respectively in the middle of the season. Without them, the team lacks outstanding individuals but Yates, in central defence, and Waters, in midfield (just one year short of injury), are promising. In attack, however, the team has begun to fill the gap left by Penrice.

But the team's greatest strength will be on the sidelines. Gerry Francis, their manager, pulls the strings with skill and imagination, never more so than at half-time. His tactical

United see ray of hope as final curtain closes

AS NIGHT fell on the season,

so a ray of hope shone for Manchester United. The FA Cup triumph, their more optimistic supporters will believe, was not merely a belated compensation for the comparative emptiness over the preceding 10 months. It represents, perhaps, the dawn of a genuine challenge for the championship next season.

Denis Law, who naturally sees nothing but the sunniest horizon for his former club, recalls the day when he featured in their Wembley victory 27 years ago. United, who had needed to win their closing League fixture to be certain of avoiding relegation, were the underdogs then against Leicester City.

He scored, typically on the turn. United won 3-1 and they subsequently carried a surfeit of belief into the following season. They finished as the runners-up to Liverpool and went on to claim the title in 1965 and 1967 and, in 1968, the European Cup. The seeds of success, Law feels, were sown at Wembley.

United have been waiting Palace ca

Wales lose players yet again

By Ian Ross

TERRY Yorath, the manager of Wales, will face an all too familiar problem before he finalizes the team which will play the World Cup finalists, Costa Rica, at Cardiff's Ninian Park tomorrow afternoon.

Although Yorath has grown accustomed to seeing his senior international squad weakened by injuries over the past 18 months, he will find that the end of the domestic season has done little to improve the attendance record of his more experienced

Seven of Yorath's original squad have already withdrawn, and although Hughes and Blackmore, who were on FA Cup final duty for Manchester United on Thursday night, have travelled to South Wales, the level of their fitness remains an unknown.

Ratcliffe, Rush, Phillips, Maguire, Holden, and Bowen have all had to be discarded because of injury, and Norman, the Sunderland goalkeeper, has withdrawn because his side are involved in the second division play-off final against Swindon.

Costa Rica are included in Scotland's World Cup group in Italy and Yorath is anticipating a competitive and attractive fixture. "We saw exactly what Egypt were capable of when they defeated Scotland, and that goes to prove that no international

Palace cash in on Cup Final

By Louise Taylor

THE ploy of linking the purchase of a season ticket for next season to the offer of a seat at Wembley for the FA Cup final, should enable Crystal Palace to strengthen themselves for the summer transfer business.

Having seen Palace's performance at the national stadium, those who bought my ticket were not disappointed. I was committed to watching the team over an entire season, but the allure of the Cup Final has resulted in the sale of 6,000 season tickets at a substantial discount. The total of 3,500 sold by last September.

Michael Hurst, the Palace secretary, said yesterday: "The club has profited very much from the receipts and television rights at Wembley alone. We have yet to receive the receipts for the semi-final from the Football Association, but although that should be a healthy figure, the crowds for earlier rounds were not that big. Nevertheless we have already had £100,000 from the press, have 'bought' the match, France, Peru, Suckling, the French goalkeeper, and David Madden, who has been given a free transfer, are all expected to part company with the club this summer.

Palace have said they will retain Ian Wright, who came on as a substitute and scored twice in the 3-3 draw on Saturday but will be free to receive television offers for him.

Connell said yesterday: "I was

Chelsea get their man

CHELSEA yesterday secured the transfer of Andy Townsend from Norwich City for £1.5 million (Louis Taylor says £1.6m). Bobby Campbell, Chelsea manager, talked to the Republic manager, talked to the Republic manager, talked to the Republic manager for seven hours on Thursday to persuade him to opt for Stamford Bridge instead of Arsenal, Everton, or Genoa, who were also interested in his services.

Townsend, who was named in the Irish World Cup squad on Thursday, moved to Norwich from Southampton for £330,000 two years ago.

● Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards has called on English supporters to give his club a chance to recreate their early glory nights.

Edwards pointed to the lack of trouble at the two Cup games at Wembley as an optimistic omen. "There was not an ounce of trouble in either of our matches with Crystal Palace. The fans have been marvellous."

"I doubt whether there has been one piece of bad behaviour. They respected each other

After the fall, the rise of a new nation

Bucharest
ROMANIAN sport seems to have been left immune to the divisive forces of the elections, which take place tomorrow. Sport is a relatively conservative establishment and the profound changes taking place in the country after the revolution have created a state of unease among athletes and sport officials.

Only two former athletes, both Olympic champions, Lia Manoliu, the 1968 discus gold medal winner in Mexico City, and Doina Melinte, who won the 800 metres at Los Angeles in 1984, ran for parliament on the National Salvation Front list. Three other former athletes, Christian Gatu, Mircea Lucescu and Vasile Iancu, had to withdraw after a decree which banned members of the armed forces or the Interior Ministry from standing as candidates.

Paradoxically, the future of Romanian sport depends more on the outcome of the battle between the interim Sports Minister,

Mircea Angelescu, and the two military clubs from Bucharest, Steaua and Dinamo, than the result of the equally uncompromising electoral race.

"It is clear that in order to implement the new democratic structures in sport the two clubs must sever their links with the military establishments," Angelescu said. "They are fighting tooth and nail to retain their position and privileges but I think that their time is up."

This was the second time I had met the chain-smoking minister since the revolution. He was appointed to help Romanian sport regain its seat after decades of neglect and mismanagement. His achievements are considerable. He injected a new lease of life into the fledgling federations, allowed the formation of ruling bodies in sports banned by communists, like golf, martial arts and bridge, and organized free elections while supporting the sacking of corrupt or incompetent administrators.

Romania, a country renowned for its sporting excellence, has been adjusting to life after the fall of the Ceausescu regime. Chris Thau, a Romanian journalist based in England, has returned to his homeland on the eve of the elections to see the changes that freedom has brought and what it holds for the future

"The economic reform still to come will change the face of sport in Romania," he said. "The change from centralized to market economy will lead to an upheaval. There will be many problems, countless clubs will go under. Working people will refuse to subsidize enterprise athletes any more. This could lead to the end of the so-called state professional. We are trying to prepare ourselves for this dramatic change."

"I have warned about this approaching crisis but my words have been badly received. After the

elections, whoever runs Romanian sport will have to deal with all these issues. So far we have tried to use the schools as the framework for the re-launch of Romanian sport. We have decided to reinstate sport in the primary schools. We have to teach children the pleasure of sport from an early age, otherwise we are going to lose them."

"We have been working on that together with the Education Ministry and we have just doubled the number of seats available at the PE Institute in Bucharest."

Of all ministerial decisions, the

crusade against the Steaua and Dinamo clubs has been the most controversial. The Ministry of the Interior seemed eager to accept a change in the way Dinamo was subsidized. Several weeks ago I saw a document signed by the Minister of the Interior in which he agreed to dispose of the assets, worth about 90 million lei (about £2.6 million), of the two Dinamo clubs in Bucharest and Brasov.

The position of the Bucharest club has changed since Angelescu was harshly criticized by several top athletes and coaches. The former Romanian football manager, Mircea Lucescu, a highly respected and influential coach with Dinamo Bucharest, was sharply critical of the ministerial approach which he said "could spell the end of top-class sport in Romania."

Iancu, the vice-president of the Dinamo club, said that three sections of the giant - club fencing, tennis and ice hockey - might have to be scrapped to save money. He

was equally critical of the ministerial decision to change the financing of military clubs.

The same line of attack was employed by Steaua, who used a battery of Olympic and world champions and record holders to demolish the ministerial assault on the position of the army establishment. "We have produced hundreds of world and Olympic champions, the flower of Romanian sport has been nurtured in our club," Nicolae Gavrilă, the commanding officer of Steaua Colonel, said.

But the Sports Minister is unrepentant. "They have to realize that life in Romania is changing."

"The opportunities for youngsters for having fun, entertainment and travelling abroad will increase dramatically. Sport will cease to become a way to social achievement and will have to be divided between an elite willing to sacrifice their life to achieve elusive goals and the mass sport. This is the end of communist sport as we knew it and there is no going back on that."

RUGBY UNION

Welsh trio renounce their South Africa link

From Owen Jenkins
Windhoek, Namibia

THE Welsh touring party arrived here early yesterday morning, and were greeted by a welcoming committee of Namibia Rugby Union officials, cameramen and photographers. The Welsh Office had warned the party before leaving Wales that Paul Thorburn, Mark Ring and Tony Clement might have to sign a declaration renouncing sporting links with South Africa following their participation in last season's SARB centenary celebrations. Upon arrival at Windhoek, they were asked aside and duly signed the form and the issue was soon forgotten.

This is the first visit by a major rugby nation since the British Isles played here in 1974. Stoffel Roeder, the manager of the Namibia Rugby Union, said: "It is with elation and expectation that we greet Wales. It is somewhat of a relief that they have eventually arrived."

Ron Waldron, the Welsh coach, said: "They see this as a very important visit by a national team. It is early days yet, but everything seems in order and we will soon knuckle down to things."

The squad will have its first training session this morning, before watching a local first division league match, refereed by Fred Howard, of the RFU. He will officiate at both international and local refereeing union is making full use of his services.

He said: "It all adds to the refereeing experience. Rugby is different throughout the world, but I won't be changing my style."

The party travels to the coast at Swakopmund tomorrow, where they will play their first match against an invitation XV

Apartheid pledge may be urged

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE French Rugby Federation, whose selectors meet tomorrow to choose the XV to play Romania in Auch on Thursday, are likely to encounter the same problems as Wales when their B team visits Namibia next month.

The Namibian Government, which wanted a form of declaration against apartheid from the two Welsh players, Paul Thorburn and Mark Ring, who visited South Africa last year, will presumably look for a similar statement from Jean-Pierre Garret and Marc Cécillon. They are the two members of the French B party who were in the international side with Thorburn and Ring which helped celebrate the centenary of the South African Rugby Board.

The Romanians, meanwhile, were able to field most of their international XV in two games against the touring British Police, which have formed part of their preparations for the game in Auch. The Police lost both games, in the first of which Dean Richards, the England No. 8, played competitive rugby for the first time since September.

Richards, who spent nearly all last season recovering from an operation to damaged shoulder ligaments, accompanied the police party as a guest but was forced to come on as a replacement for the last half hour of the game against a Bucharest Select XV which included 13 internationals. Richards had no adverse reaction from his shoulder.

His club colleague at Leicester, John Liley, received his award on Thursday night from Tandem Computers as England's leading first-class points scorer. Liley, who goes to Argentina with England in July, scored 439 points during 1989-90, establishing a club record which included 18 tries. Eddie Saunders, the Rugby wing, received a similar award as the country's leading try-scorer.

For the third time in four years Saunders won the Tandem seven counties merit table, winning 11 of their 12 games.

TABLE TENNIS

Chen delights with galaxy of strokes to inspire England

From Richard Eaton, Aomori, Japan

CHEN Xinhua made an immaculate first appearance as England became strong contenders for a quarter-final place with a thumping 3-0 victory over Taiwan on the opening day of the inaugural world team cup here yesterday.

The former member of two world title winning Chinese teams, now based in Rotham, hardly put a foot wrong while winning the first match 21-14, 21-10 against Chih Chin-long.

Indeed, Chen went right through his extensive repertoire without so much as a stumble: first producing subtly masked services behind which the dagger thrust of a forehand leapt out with a series of kills, then the parrying and weaving of a tightly meshed backspin defence, after that the occasional loop from half distance, and just before the end the unleashing of a sudden backhand counter hit.

Few have played with such

a variety of strokes as this. "It was a super debut - ideal," said Donald Parker, the England captain, a staunch supporter throughout all the controversy over Chen's selection. "He was in a different class."

Just how high that class really is may be better revealed tomorrow when England take on a Swedish team containing the world champion, Jan-Ove Waldner. Today England play Canada, a team they know they can beat, in a match they feel should put them into the last eight irrespective of the Swedish result.

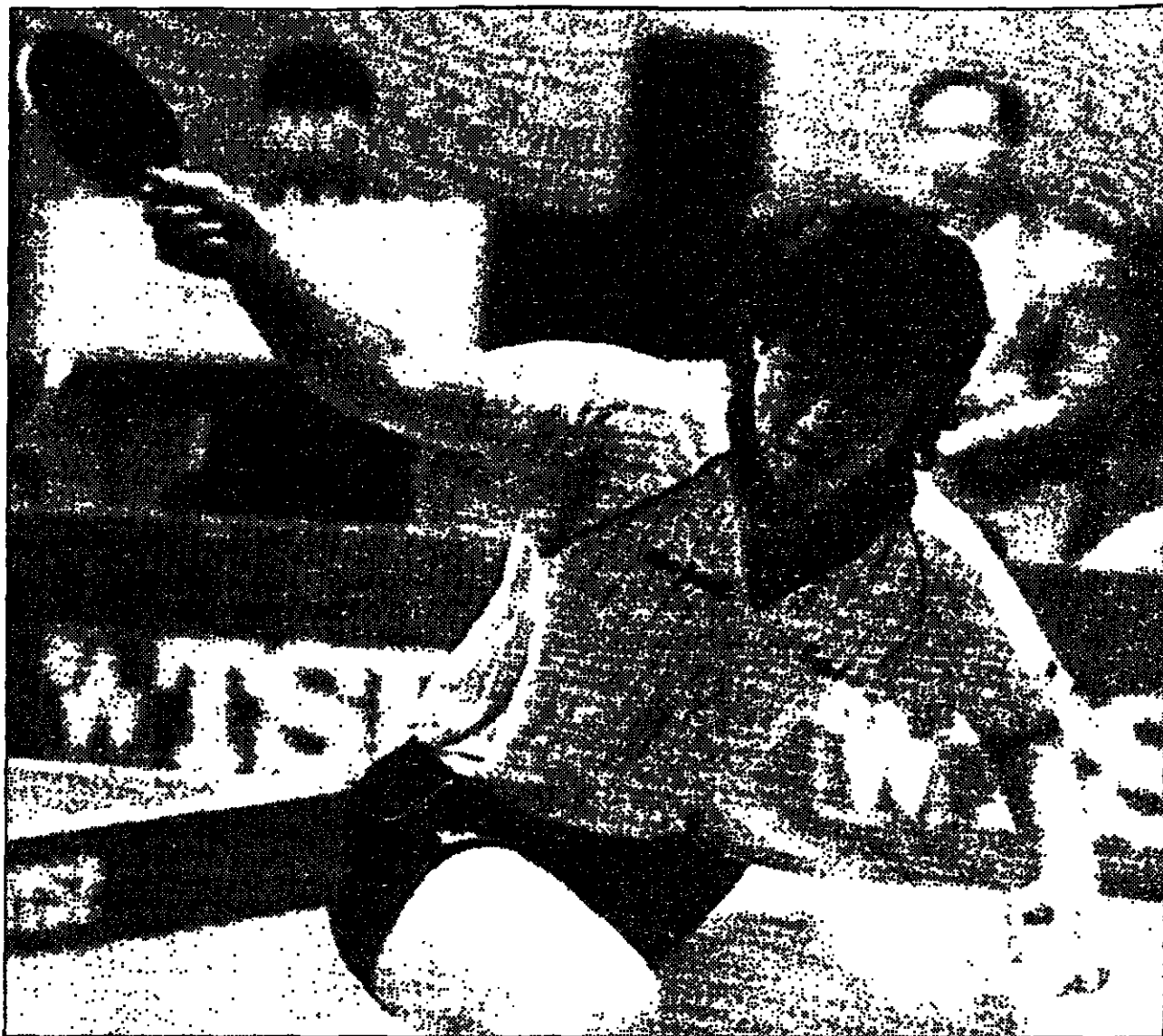
This became almost certain after Alan Cooke defeated Chih Chin-Siu, twin brother of Chih Chin-long. Chin-Siu is a few minutes the younger, but perhaps the odd point or two better and Cooke needed to work hard against an opponent who fiddled away close to the table with a left-handed chopsticks grip, using cushioning blocks

When Cooke won 21-11, 17-21, 21-18, England were two up and the tension left the contest. Cooke re-appeared to pair with Desmond Douglas and win the doubles, and Chen was not needed to play again.

Instead we were left to reflect on how relaxed this new man managed to appear, despite a disconcerting few weeks preparation for him and problems in the past three days with sleeplessness and stomach pains.

"Being in England team very different from Chinese team," Chen said. "More relaxed. Chinese make it hard for me here - in the head. This suits me better."

How much better English attitudes will suit him is a fascinating question. On yesterday's evidence Chen has enough ability to lift England from a good team to a dangerous one. The evidence of tomorrow will be eagerly awaited.



England expects: Chen Xinhua winning his first match for England in Japan yesterday

BOXING

Opponent change for Lewis

LENNOX Lewis, Britain's exciting young world heavyweight title hope, has yet another new opponent for his appearance at Sheffield City Hall on tomorrow night. He will now meet Dan "The Business Man" Murphy, from Nebraska.

According to Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, heavyweights just don't want to know. Three Americans, Mike Cohen, Phil Brown and Alonzo Ruffin, promised to come to Sheffield but soon pulled out.

"Lewis is getting a fearsome reputation," Maloney said. "It's a real problem getting opponents for Lennox. No one wants to come and fight him, or if they do they start talking telephone number purses. This fight has cost well over the odds but it had to be done to keep Lennox active and let the public see him in action."

The Olympic champion is unbeaten as a professional. All his 10 contests have ended inside the distance.

Murphy, described by Maloney as a "giant," has won 27 of his 32 bouts, 19 with knockouts.

TENNIS

Gómez enjoys relaxed stroll

From Richard Evans, Rome

LIFE tends to come a little easier to someone as naturally talented as Andrés Gómez. Not, however, quite as easily as the victory of the big left-hander from Ecuador enjoyed over Omar Camporese, in the Italian Open here yesterday.

On a day of cloudless skies at the Foro Italico, Gómez strolled into the semi-finals, 6-1, 6-2 in just 59 minutes and the disappointed crowd had nothing to do except improve their sunbats and accept the difference in class

Kruger shows spirit in toppling top seed

BOTH the men's and women's top seeds were beaten in the semi-finals of the Hi-Tec Satellite tournament at Bournemouth yesterday.

In the first of the men's singles semi-finals, Václav Roubicek, of Czechoslovakia, who won the Swansea tournament last week, beat Oliver Fuchs, of Austria, the top seed, 6-3, 6-4. Joanne Kruger, aged 16, of South Africa, defeated Kiriya Sharpe, the top seeded Australian left-

hander, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 in the opening women's semi-final on the centre court.

Having lost the first set and dropped her service to 1-4 in the second, Kruger showed great potential and fighting spirit in rallying to take control.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Semi-finals: V. Roubicek (Cz) vs O. Fuchs (Aust), 6-3, 6-4; A. Kruger (SA) vs K. Sharpe (Aus), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; J. Kruger (SA) vs K. Sharpe (Aus), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; J. Kruger (SA) vs K. Sharpe (Aus), 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

championship here in Rome in 1982 and 1984. In those days Gómez did mean a little more to him and his Latin temperament, buried deep beneath an easy-going charm, occasionally flared up in destructive fashion.

The pressure of winning and losing at the highest level has always held Gómez back, coupled with a certain lack of interest in the tougher aspects of physical conditioning. For such a fine player, Gómez's record in grand slam events is abysmal.

Despite reaching the quarter-finals once at Wimbledon and three times at the French Open, he has never progressed further but, on form, he may prove that it is still not too old to improve at the age of 30.

That, at any rate, is the hope of his new coach, Patto Rodriguez, the Chilean who helped José-Luis Clerc reach the world's top 10. Gómez is back there himself, ranked No. 7 in the world and looking the part.

Earlier, Emilio Sánchez of Spain, defeated Guillermo Pérez-Roldán - one of two Argentinians to reach the multi-national last night, 7-6, 6-2.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: E. Sánchez (Sp) vs G. Pérez-Roldán (Arg), 7-6, 6-2; G. Gómez (Ec) vs O. Camporese (It), 6-2, 6-2.

Graf rides out early pressure

From Barry Wood
West Berlin

STEFFI Graf came under early pressure from Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union before reaching the semi-finals of the Luxembourg Cup yesterday.

Graf won 6-4, 6-1, but looked uncomfortable as Meskhi constantly hit the ball deep and sent backhand passes down the line. But the Russian could not maintain her accuracy and Graf eventually took the upper hand.

The top seed now meets another Soviet, Natalia Zvereva, who defeated Judith Wiesner, of Austria, 6-7, 6-0, 6-4. Zvereva responded to her first-set loss with a vengeance. Looking sharper, she sent winners down the line in the manner of her compatriot and produced a number of winning lobs.

Sandra Cecchini followed up her victory over Gabriela Sabatini by defeating Nathalie Tauziat 7-6, 6-3.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: N. Zvereva (USSR) vs J. Wiesner (Aust), 6-7, 6-0, 6-4; S. Cecchini (It) vs G. Sabatini (Arg), 6-4, 6-1; S. Graf (FRG) vs L. Meskhi (USSR), 6-4, 6-1.

SNOOKER

Francisco cleared of alleged betting coup

By Steve Acteson

SILVINO Francisco was yesterday cleared of involvement in alleged betting coups at the Benson and Hedges Masters tournaments at Wembley in 1988 and 1989, but is now considering legal action of his own.

The South African lost 5-1 on both occasions, respectively to Tony Knowles and the former world champion, Terry Griffiths. On the latter occasion, in January 1989, the bookmakers, Ladbrokes, suspected an unusual spread of betting and suspended betting shortly before the match against Griffiths.

Initial investigations by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and by the Betting Offices Licensees Association (BOLA) were taken over by Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad, which arrested Francisco for questioning in both January and March.

Yesterday, however, the Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence to show any offence had been committed by anyone named in the police report and it would take no action.

Francisco, who lives in

Chesterfield, and who has fallen to 27th in the world rankings, said: "I am very relieved that it is all over but I'm also very angry that it has taken as long as it has. I said I was innocent all along and I feel completely vindicated."

His wife, Denise, said: "We are considering our position." She would not divulge who her husband might consider litigation against but said: "There are quite a few as far as I can make out."

"We have known unofficially for about a week that Silvino had been cleared but can you imagine what it was like having to live under a cloud like this? We were not worried before but Silvino was arrested in January but when that happened things became much more serious and I think it is outrageous."

A spokesman for Ladbrokes said after the 1989 match that his company's liability was £10,000 and the total winnings involved around £50,000. BOLA then recommended non-payment by bookmakers but said yesterday it would review the situation after reading the police report.

REAL TENNIS

Fairbairns and Danby threat to favourites

By Sally Jones

COLIN Dean, of Hatfield, and David Bevan-Thomas, of Peterworth, start favourites for the Scott Hurler Cup, the National over-50s doubles championship which starts at Perworth today. Dean, a shrewd tactician, looks the strongest player in the event but the partnership should still face a tough challenge from the No. 2 seeds, Paul Danby, of Seacourt, and Martin Fairbairns, of Perworth.

● Lachlan Deuchar, of Australia, who recently won the world tournament, survived two match points to beat the leading Australian amateur, Mike Hapell, in the J D Ward National League. Despite his heroics, Hapell lost 2-1 to Deuchar, 2-4, 6-4, 5-6; D. Johnson (H) vs D. Deuchar, 2-4, 6-4, 5-6; J. Ward (A) vs L. Deuchar, 2-4, 6-4, 5-6.

● Hapell looks likely to take the MCC Gold Racket this afternoon when he meets the holder, Alan Lovell, in the final at Lord's. Hapell has been training hard and is playing some of his best tennis of the year. In contrast to his opponent, the precise and talented Lovell has played almost no singles this season.

Mark Herbert previews the FA Trophy final and the next instalment in 1990's year of the underdog

Leek plan to cash in on their surprise Wembley bonus

IN A season of sporting surprises on a grand scale, it is easy to overlook exceptional achievements in the world of football.

Today, Leek Town brings their unsophisticated talents to the Wembley turf in the FA Trophy final having already climbed their mountain. Barrow, their opponents, hold no fears.

To put Leek's achievements into a League perspective would be to imagine a third division club reaching the FA Cup final from the first qualifying round, having beaten Liverpool and Manchester United on the way. The team from the HFS Loans League's first division has played 11 matches to get this far, eliminating the holders, Telford United, and the professionals from Darlington, the GVI Vauxhall Conference champions, on the way.

No one from the first division of the Northern Premier League has ever gone so far in the Trophy; the only finalists from an equivalent level were Bishop's Cleeve, in 1981, when they were in the Isthmian League. Win or lose, the team will receive a warm welcome from 20,000 Leek citizens tomorrow.

Earlier in the season, the club made promotion its priority, and Wembley was seen only as a bonus. Leek duly won the league, and its manager, Neil Baker, who has guided his team to the final while learning the bar trade in a Stafford pub,

WEMBLEY TEAMS

BARROW SQUAD: P. McDonnell, S. Hogg, A. Chubb, G. Simpson, K. Smith, J. Proctor, W. Gilmore, N. Doherty, P. Farrell, C. Coughlan, K. Lowe, P. Harris, S. Toth, M. Burgess, M. Jackson, Manager: R. Wiles.
LEEK TOWN SQUAD: R. Simpson, I. Elsey, G. Pearce, C. McMillen, P. Givens, S. Morris, S. Goldsaw, A. Somerville, D. Coleman, E. Mellor, A. Morgan, G. Helling, J. Lodge, D. Sutton, J. Russell, M. Smith, D. Maltoun, Manager: N. Baker.
BARROW: First round: v Bangor (H), 1-0. Second: Metropolitan Police (H), 1-0. Third: Yeovil (A), 1-1; replay (H), 2-1. Quarter-finals: King's Lynn (H), 2-0; replay (H), 1-0. Semi-finals: first leg, Colne Dynamics (H), 1-0; second leg (H), 1-1.
LEEK TOWN: First qualifying round: v Hednesford (H), 1-1. Second: Moor Green (H), 2-1. Third: Newton (H), 1-0. First round: Spennymoor (A), 2-1. Second: Nuneaton (H), 1-1; replay (H), 1-0. Third: Telford (A), 0-2; replay (H), 3-0. Quarter-finals: Darlington (H), 1-0. Semi-finals: first leg, Stafford Rangers (A), 0-0; second leg (H), 1-0.

remains soberly pragmatic. "We'll play our normal game," he said. "Obviously, you have to make allowances for the size of Wembley, but our tactics will be the same."

"I've seen Barrow five times in the last few weeks. They're not as strong as some of the sides we've beaten in the Trophy, but they've got players who can cause us problems."

Leek's success has been founded on experience. Several of their squad have played for local League clubs: Smith and Elsey with Port Vale, Norris and Pearce with Stoke City. Their

defence has proved tight. In the last five matches of the Trophy, in which they saw off three Conference sides - Telford, Darlington and Stafford Rangers - they did not concede a goal.

In previous years, Leek have been remembered for two achievements: in 1974, they lost by a record Trophy score, 7-0, at home to Walsford; four years ago, they became the first club from the North West Counties League to reach the third round of the competition. There, Wycombe Wanderers needed three matches to evict them: Leek drew 2-2 at home, then, in an incredible performance, held Wycombe 5-5 at Loakes Park. The second replay was drawn 1-1, and Wycombe finally triumphed 3-0 in the third.

Three of the squad remain from that day: Mellor, McMillen and Pearce. The latter, in his testimonial year after 15 seasons at Harrison Park, recalls when the club turned down the chance to sign Mark Bright, the Crystal Palace forward, who strolled the same stage in the FA Cup final on Thursday, for £12.

"When Mark first came to Leek 10 years ago, big things were expected of him, but he struggled to get into the side," Pearce recalls. "He went off to train with Port Vale off his own bat, after work, and when he came back to Leek on loan the transformation was amazing."

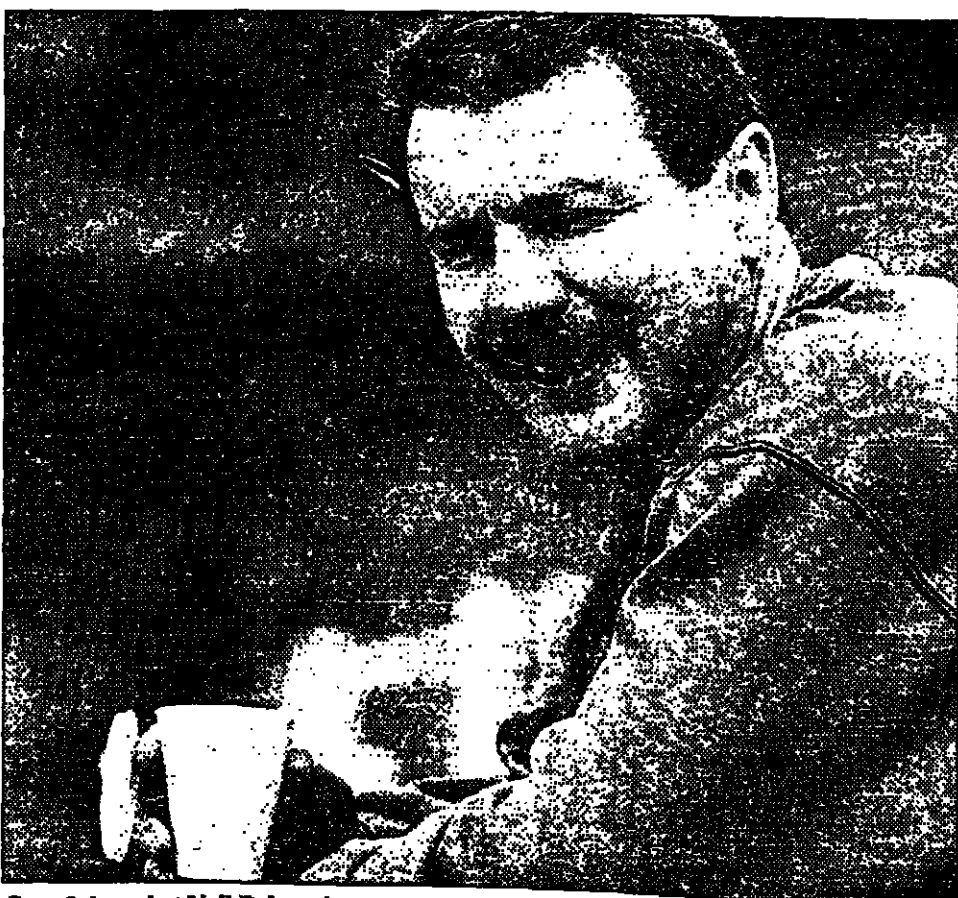
He's a class player now. All credit to him. He had to work for it, nobody gave him anything."

Barrow have had an indifferent time since losing League status in 1972: the last decade has been characterized by management problems while they commuted between the Conference and Northern Premier League. This season, relegation again threatened, but was averted, leaving them free to concentrate on a first Wembley appearance.

The club, which reached the semi-finals under the present manager, Ray Wilkie, in 1988, still generates a great deal of passion in the North West. Gates are averaging almost 1,300 - the highest since 1972 - and the home leg of the semi-final, against Colne Dynamics, drew 5,000 to Holker Street.

Experience abounds. McDonnell, the goalkeeper, won a European Cup winner's medal as Ray Clements's understudy at Liverpool in 1977, and Coughlan, the forward in his tenth year at the club, holds the scoring record with 231 goals in 572 appearances. The final is a fitting tribute to the centre half, Gordon, aged 33, who made his debut for the club in 1978. He emigrates to Australia later in the year.

If the match is drawn after extra time, the replay will be held at Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday, kicking-off at 7.45pm.



Cup of cheer: but Neil Baker, the manager of Leek Town, has his sights on the FA Trophy

Stoute's rapidly improving four-year-old has Queen Anne Stakes objective at royal meeting

Safawan swoops to conquer

DISPLAYING an excellent burst of acceleration, Michael Stoute's Safawan came from last to first in just under half a furlong to record an impressive two-length success over Distant Relative in the £40,000 Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes at Newbury yesterday.

Although eased down before the line by Walter Swinburn, the rapidly improving colt recorded a time just one-fifth of a second outside the mile record held by Kris.

"That was impressive and he's still improving," said Stoute, who will now prepare the colt for Royal Ascot's Queen Anne Stakes.

The colt was purchased from his breeder the Aga Khan last autumn by David Thompson, who in turn passed the horse on to his wife as a present.

Markofdistinction, the 6-4 favourite, came with every chance on the far side a furlong out, but faded to finish fourth.

Michael Stoute, already with Ivrea among the Oaks contenders, produced another live classic candidate when the Aga Khan's Kartajana impressively swept clear to beat Katsina by three lengths in the William Hill Fillies' Trial Stakes.

Ladbrokes quoted her at 5-1 for Epsom immediately after the trial, but this was laid substantially, and she is now 7-2 behind the 7-4 favourite, Salsabil.

Henry Cecil's Private Tender, quoted at 25-1 for the Derby, was 6-5 favourite for the Ultramar Handicap but finished last of the 10 runners.

Off the pace in the early stages, Steve Cauthean moved the colt out to mount a challenge three furlongs from home, but the effort was short-lived and the former champion explained: "When I pulled him out his legs sprawled, I had to be easy on him after that, but I think he's okay."

At the business end of the race, Paring Moment was making a brave effort to make all, but was overwhelmed in



Pat Eddery (nearside) pounces on Gray Harwood's Stereo to get the better of Paring Moment (Seamus O'Gorman) by a neck in the Ultramar Handicap at Newbury yesterday

the final strides by Pat Eddery's mount Stereo, who went on to win by a neck.

If he comes out of this race well, Gray Harwood's colt will be prepared for the Italian Derby.

Clare Balding pulled out of the British squad for the Lanson Champagne ladies' international challenge match against the European girls at York on Thursday. She was unable to make the weight on her allotted mount. But she gained handsome compensation yesterday.

The daughter of royal trainer Ian Balding gave the 14-1 chance Song Of Sixpence a patient ride to beat Alfreed a head in the Berkshire track's first race for women jockeys

for more than a decade. Mellottie, 9-4 favourite, was third.

Miss Balding, who goes to Cambridge in the autumn to study English, is making every effort to make amends for her near miss in last year's women's championship, and flies to Hamilton this evening to partner Gerard Chaddington for Jack Berry.

There are 15 entries for Predominate Stakes at Goodwood next Wednesday. They are: Curia Regis, Digression, Dreaming Spire, Elmaul, Kaheel, Razeen, Regimental Arms, Rockeep, Sharp Salute, Shavian, Silca An' Key, Surpassing, Victory Piper, Waki Gold, Welney.

Cossack Guard heads Longchamp challenge

Cossack Guard (Michael Roberts), Theingabouthis (Steve Cauthean) and Ruling (John Williams) provide the British challenge in the Prix du Cadran (2m) at Longchamp tomorrow. Turgeon (Tony Cruz) is the likely favourite.

Roberts also rides the Mark Johnston-trained Sarskarak in the Prix du Cadran. He scored in the Tetrarch Stakes with a good deal in hand, but in the parade ring had sweated up and his temperament for the big

Prix Jean de Chaudenay at Saint-Cloud at the expense of German challenger, Mondrian.

There are several British hopes on view at Baden-Baden. Today, Dance Spectrum (Ray Cochrane) and Ashal (Richard Hills) contest the group three Olander-Rennen with Kadim (Hills) going for the listed Scherpen-Rennen.

Tomorrow, Langtry Lady (John McLaughlin), Mirror Black (John Reid), Western Gun (Lanfranco Dettori) and Sharp N' Early (Willie Carson) are among 14 starters, including the formerly English-trained Just A Flutter and Bin Shaddad, for the Badenair Meile.

Melton vote for Perroquet

QUALITY abounds among the 166 entries for the Melton Hunt Club point-to-point at Garthorpe today.

With Sweet Diana reserved for the RMC final at Warwick in the evening, Jill Dawson will be on a stable companion Roscoe Bay in the ladies. Although this combination has been beaten only once in 14 races in the last two years, Perroquet looks likely to bring about their second defeat.

The Robert Allen-trained and ridden Elver Season has put up some impressive performances in the South West and looks to be good enough for the open.

With Stanwick Lad beaten on Wednesday at Colchester, Katsville may be the one to provide the main opposition, but Freddie Teal and Deer Crest must also enter into the reckoning.

The Marie Curie novice championship is attracted to most of the top youngsters seen out this season. Bertie Boy, Konrad Wolf and Bourne Warrior have all established fine reputations but one who has so far only won two small races,

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

Wall Game, may be worth considering. A stable companion of the old champion hunter chaser Border Burg, he is highly thought of by James Delahouche and will be ridden by the experienced Alan Hill.

With double entries and plans still fluid for many, looking for winners of the other three races is not easy but, in their selected races, True Downy, Adventures, Lolly's Patch and Ask Jean should all run well.

The Isle of Wight hunt came over to the mainland for the last of this season's meetings at Tweseldown. Senator Of Rome has an opportunity in the open of making amends for losing his five outings. With Alison Dare waiting for next week's Larkhill fixture, Nearly Handy will have a straightforward task if started in the ladies.

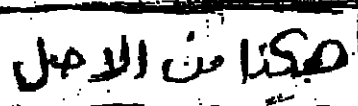
Philip Schofield and Mike Felton are likely to be in opposition at the Dalveston West. After his win on Beech Grove on Wednesday, Felton is now three ahead of his rival in the title race, but may find it difficult to score here as his

main hope, Sutton Prince, could be opposed by the prolific Welsh winner Timber Tool in the open.

Radio Cue won well at the Banwell meeting and would be worth following if making the long journey from Carmarthen to run in the PPOA race.

Today's meetings

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Out of the past: a fishing junk bobs by the mirrored façades of the money-making machines of Central District as Hong Kong waits for integration with China in 1997. Some residents are hopeful, some fearful; most try not to think ahead

Spinning towards the unknown

thousand, like everybody else asks, hopes that their lives in Hong Kong will carry on much as before. Optimists continue to favour hope, pessimists the worst. A majority is fatalistic and tries not to think too far ahead. Seven years, they say, is a long way in the future for a man as old as China's

In the meantime the accents of the almost too smoothly pin-striped young city types are

And in the meantime, despite a proliferation of air-conditioned shopping malls riddled with Armani, Ashley et al., despite ever more of the climatized high-level walkways which segregate the very well dressed from the less so at street level, and despite skyscraping towers of offices and flats appearing with the sudden-

of Hengshui Harbour is what the name Hong Kong means, but pollution poses drastic problems these days. Despite unscrupulous microbiological threats to the human gut, small boys throw the sea walls filling old tins with tiny fish that are plainly intended for the woker. Their mothers and their sisters and their grannies and their aunts meantime, the older women still often seen in traditional dress of tunic and trousers, scour the market for the crispest vegetables and the liveliest fish. Freshness is a fetish which accounts, in part, for the city's high reputation as a gastronomic showcase for regional styles of Chinese cooking. Huanan is the flavour of the moment.

The family's washing, Hong Kong's national flag, was threaded on poles poked out of the kitchen window. The flat was minute, everything stowed ingeniously as on a small boat. A television and video recorder dominated the living room. "You have to have video if you want to keep your children at home," Mrs Chan said, smiling over the heads of her two daughters.

At ground level are the community's shops, with grandmothers much in evidence as child-

The New Territories used to be where people went to see a landscape of duck ponds and fish farms. There is not much of that left now, and Hong Kong's other islands, Lamu, Cheung Chan and, until the planes start arriving, Lantau, are the weekend retreats of the haves — those, that is, who do not get right away from it all to the casinos of Macau. Take a ferry. It costs less than excursion boats, and offers neither loud-spoken commentary nor fizzy drink.

HONG KONG: WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO

Hong Kong, and a pool of serenity. The collection is housed in the oldest domestic building still standing, the former headquarters of the Commander of the British Forces, built in 1844. It is at Cotton Tree Drive, Central (5-622222).

It is very easy to run up huge restaurant bills in Hong Kong.

Live bands to dance to play in popular hotel nightclubs — the Pink Giraffe at the Sheraton (3-

Simply sunbathe, or explore the beaches and bays, the museums. And when you've worked up an appetite, one of the finest restaurants you'll find is just a short walk away.

Ask your travel agent, phone (201) 981-2200 (toll-free 1-800-368-2200, personal service), or send the card to: Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey, UK.

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and monuments, the leafy lanes
appetite, enjoy eating out at some
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TRAVEL

Country life in Edwardian good taste

Pleasures of an Exmoor table make a memorable weekend for George Hill

One thing in the world of the country house has not changed since the golden days of the Woodhouse novels. Blandings Castle may have become a conference hotel, the Drones spinning down from Mayfair in their little sports cars may have given way to commodity brokers in Porsches, and the quarters of the departed Empress may have been converted into self-catering apartments. But the question of chefs is just as dramatic as in the days when Aunts and Baronets would plumb the depths of human anguish and perfidy in their rivalry to secure the services of the inimitable Anatole and his unforgettable sauces.

Unwary travellers are all too much at risk of arriving at a country house hotel whose cooking has been warmly praised only to have the realization dawn, as their host unfolds the tale of tonight's menu beside the blazing fire, that the chef has moved on. Country hotel owners wake sweating in the middle of the night from the same nightmare that convulsed many an Edwardian chateaux: they have succeeded in recruiting a good cook, as cooks go — and that, as good cooks go, theirs has gone.

For ambitious young chefs, a peaceful spot in the countryside is an excellent place to make a name. Once that is achieved, the bright lights can become a great temptation. As they spread their wings, the places where they made their names can be left gravely bereft, for there is all the difference in the world between a hotel where the cooking is adequate, and one where it is worth seeking out.

Periton Park Hotel, on the edge of Exmoor, has a very good cook indeed. I do not want to decry the hotel's many other attractions, still less to imply any weakness in the ties of loyalty that bind Clive Arthur to Christine and Ian Dodd, the hotel's owners, if I say that the menu is Periton Park's greatest strength.

Mr Arthur is an imaginative and eclectic cook. He treats vegetables with tenderness and respect, which is a test of real seriousness. In a spot which is a little way off the beaten track, he has estab-

lished lines of supply which seem to operate efficiently. One can well imagine Aunts and Baronets being set at each other's throats by his Fillet of English Lamb in a Cage of Puff. Pastry with Madeira sauce and wild mushrooms.

Only half an hour from the M5, Periton Park is not as far from the beaten track as all that. But the north edge of Exmoor, between the Quantocks and Lynmouth, remains relatively peaceful, especially outside the summer season.

It is just at that time of year that a solid Victorian house, built on a family rather than a feudal scale, and surrounded by 32 acres of gardens and woods, can be one of the most comfortable places on earth. One gazes out through wide bow windows at the mist flowing over the high moorland, and faces with equanimity the alternatives of striding out to glimpse the red deer if the weather clears, or taking a turn round the baronial billiard-table if it does not.

Periton Park is one of those hotels where the visitor expects to shirk into institutional anonymity, and is not prepared to sing for his supper, will miss much of the point. Mr and Mrs Dodd regard themselves as hosts in far more than the managerial sense. They make a point of breaking the ice with introductions over the brandy, and the conferences over the serious business of the menu are a major event of the day.

We were lucky: the weather cleared up. Between the sea and the moors, we climbed the deep romantic chasm of Culbone Combe, which slants up from Porlock. And at the top of the combe, we wove a holy circle once round the wonderfully ordinary-looking farm where Coleridge probably wrote *Kubla Khan*.

Then the rain came on again and we drove back, anticipating Mr Arthur's Darné of Fresh Salmon poached in Champagne. Aunt Dahlia would have committed murder for it.

TRAVEL NOTES

Periton Park Hotel, Minehead, West Somerset TA24 8SW (0643 706885). Half-board with dinner ranges from £52.50 a head per night upwards, with special terms for weekend breaks in winter and spring.



Whitewashed houses and steep streets: even the popular village of Lynmouth, on the edge of Exmoor, is peaceful outside the summer season.

TRAVEL NEWS

Pole vault

Berlin for £79 and Warsaw for £99 are the fares on Coach Europe's weekly service to Poland, beginning on June 8. Coach Europe is an International Leisure Group company. Reservations: 0533 510110. Expect to pay about £30 more for a return air fare to Berlin.

Call to arms

An action replay of the battle of Waterloo is being staged on the site of Wellington's victory. On June 17, the eve of the 175th anniversary, the Napoleonic Society and an international cast of 2,000 will re-enact the struggle. Belgian Travel Service (0920 467345) is running a Waterloo Weekend. Return coach travel from London and three night's half-board in Brussels: £199.

At your service

All car ferry and hovercraft services between Dover and Calais are listed on a map of Europe available free from more than 6,500 members of the Association of British Travel Agents. Or send a large sae (with 30p first class or 24p second class stamp) to Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Calais, G.L. Treble Associates, 19 Hampstead Lane, London N6 4BR.

Pampered pets

Doting owners can put their pets up for membership of the Featherbed Country Club for Dogs. Provided that the animal passes the £28.75 "vetting procedure" it can occupy its own luxuriously furnished quarters and eat its usual food at the customary times for £125 a week. Details: PO Box 67, High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6XQ. (0494 711649).

Swanning off

An age limit of 25 is set by Swan Hellenic on its young travellers' discounts of up to 50 per cent on three cruises this summer. Each young person must be accompanied by at least one full-fare paying passenger. The three cruises are the Moors of Spain departing June 27, Vikings, Normans and Bretons (July 25) and Atlantic coast to Mediterranean Shore (August 8). Full adult fares start at £1,155 and include flights, accommodation, meals, excursions, entrance fees and portage (071 831 1515).

Shona Crawford Poole

A loud and singular protest

Shona Crawford Poole reports readers' anger over single room supplements

Unfair, iniquitous, outrageous, monstrous, even obscene. These are the words that normally mild-mannered readers of *The Times* employ to air their views on single room supplements.

Why should solo travellers, who have very often "reached the stage where we sleep better alone and prefer to be alone", wrote one reader who spoke for many, be so severely penalized for declining to share a bedroom with a friend or, heaven forbid, a stranger? Why should they pay more, and get less, than couples?

When we published the results of our survey on readers' holiday habits and aspirations, the penal price put on privacy was by far the greatest source of disquiet. We asked you to tell us more.

Examples of discrimination are many. The heaviest single room supplement I came across is £104 a night for a

harbour view room in the Shangri-la Hotel, Hong Kong. On Kuoni's five-night, low-season price of £887, this adds a whopping 59 per cent. That, of course, is on a holiday which is not cheap in the first instance. But many would-be holidaymakers hardest hit by supplements are elderly and widowed or divorced people, whose choices may already be limited by poor health or inflation-eroded pensions.

Your complaints focus on two categories of unfairness: being charged more for a small and ill-favoured single room than for sharing a large, well-equipped double room; and being charged a single room supplement for solo use of a double room, in a hotel which is half empty.

One enterprising reader

bucked the system successfully. Let Mrs Anna Robinson speak for herself. "In June 1987 I booked the Hotel Splendido in Puerto Soler, Mallorca for three weeks. It was the first holiday since my husband's death. My agent particularly asked for a nice single room, overlooking the garden if (as usual) no sea view rooms were available for singles. A nice room with garden view was confirmed at a surcharge of £22 extra per week. I arrived and to my horror was put in (literally) a black, dark room with a window only nine inches from a wall. No view of any kind. No bedside light — only a very

dim naked bulb right up in the ceiling. "I went down to reception and asked for the manager. He was out. I told the head receptionist 'I cannot spend even one night in that black hole.' Apart from the darkness it was quite airless. I spent two nights in reception, sleeping on a sofa. Eventually I was given a good, light, twin-bedded room overlooking the garden. My courier said: 'They always try to get away with letting that room and often succeed.' "Towards the end of that holiday I searched around for a small hotel near the sea with decent single rooms. I discov-

ered Los Geranios, run by a Dutchman and his German wife, and I have been there ever since. It is a spotless and friendly place. At Geranios they said: 'We think that a very good quota of sea views and balcony rooms should go to singles, as they pay more. This year the single surcharge for a small double room is £8.75 a week, and a balcony is another £8.75, still very reasonable.' Peter Tyrrie, managing director of Balmoral International, and a former manager of Genealogies Hotel in Scotland and the Mandarin Oriental in Hong Kong, says a good hotelier would never charge a supplement for single occupancy of a double room if he has rooms which would otherwise be empty. "Supplements are simply a rip-off if

singles are using accommodation that would not otherwise be let."

The problem hoteliers face, he explains, is in allocating blocks of rooms, in advance, to tour operators. The assumption is always that the hotel will be full, so rates are set on costings calculated many months in advance. These rates assume double occupancy and the hotelier or tour operator would suffer a loss if they were let as singles with no extra charge.

"You can always strike a bargain," Mr Tyrrie suggests.

● Be prepared to bargain directly with hotels.

● Shop around, and never be shy of asking travel agents to question requests for supplements on your behalf. If the tour operator or hotel's business is slack, they may be prepared to reduce or waive the published charges.

● Note special offers, usually available in the low season.

Cheapest fares nearer home

FARE DEALS

Nouvelles Frontières waved its magic wand for Ruth and Simon Jones. On impulse, the couple had decided to celebrate their wedding anniversary with a short mid-week break in Paris, but cut-price airline Air Europe could not offer them any low fares at all.

"Yes, we do have a £79 APEX fare," sniffed the reservations clerk, "but you must book at least 14 days ahead and stay away over a Saturday night. If you want to fly to Paris next Tuesday and return on Thursday, our cheapest return fare is £127."

Fortunately, the Joneses were aware that flight consolidators can sometimes bend the rules. So they contacted the London office of Nouvelles Frontières (Air Europe's consolidator for the Paris route) which promptly sold the Joneses the very same seats for just £70 each.

A consolidator is basically a travel agent booking large numbers of seats with a selected airline, or airlines, to a specific number of destinations. Because these creative salesmen fill seats that would otherwise remain empty, the airlines reward them with such favourable terms as spe-

cial fares and permission to waive booking restrictions. The availability of savings depends, of course, on market conditions. Consolidators do not get a look-in for flights to Ireland, Holland, Belgium or many points in Spain and Greece because the existing scheduled fares are so competitive. But as you can see from the chart, consolidators can offer good savings for most other countries.

If you are flying to Austria, Austro Tours sells flights with Austrian Airlines to Klagenfurt for £162, Graz for £169,

and Salzburg for £138, and flights with Dan Air to Innsbruck for £163. The Swissair consolidator, City, by City, charges £122 to Zurich and £119 for Geneva/Basel. Dan Air consolidator Euro Express features that cater for flights to Paris for £89 return. Besides Lisbon, Air Portugal consolidator Abreu, offers Faro and Oporto for £110, and Funchal (Madeira) at £150. Scantours offers flights with Air Europe from London to Gatwick for £185 to Stockholm and £165 to Oslo. Recently, consolidators

have started to make their mark in eastern Europe. Transavia is selling Moscow and Leningrad for £259, and £250 respectively, Bucharest for £225, Budapest £201, Prague £177 and Sofia £203.

● Contacts: Abreu 071-329 9905; Austro Tours 0727 38191; Bloomsbury Travel 071-242 6436; Euro Express 0293 511125; Nouvelles Frontières 071-629 7772; Pilgrims Air 081-748 1333; Scantours 071-839 2927; Slade 081-202 0111; Trailfinders 071-938 3232.

Alex McWhirter

Alex McWhirter is travel editor of *Business Traveller* magazine

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SAVE

	Official Fares	Special Fares
	APEX (£)	PEX (£)
West Berlin	138/173	183
Copenhagen	139	192
Frankfurt	95	142
Geneva	114/164	153/201
Istanbul	—	277
Lisbon	—	119/208
Madrid	—	139/149
Moscow	270	448
Nice	135	189
Paris	79	89
Rome	188/219	250/300
Vienne	192	239
Consolidator	Slade	Slade
Airline	various	various
Fare (£)	119	150
	75	75
	119	119
	140	140
	110	110
	250	250
	145	145
	70	70
	from 169	from 169
	from 145	from 145

All departures from London. All prices refer to flights in May/June and are subject to change. Fares to some destinations are liable to seasonal increases from July onwards.

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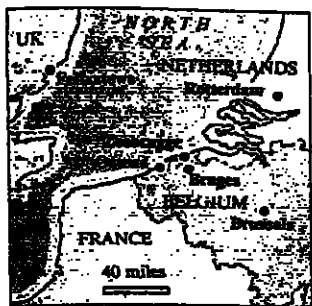
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TRAVEL

Playing devil's advocate in Bruges

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRUNO BARBEY/VICTOR ENGBEREN

Michael Watkins
lifts the covers on
the city they call
the 'Venice of the
north' and finds
a few surprises



Let's be beastly about Bruges. No one else is. You never hear "What a dump!" as you might of Brazzaville or Bremen. All you hear are glowing effusions that Bruges is the "Venice of the north", or faint distillations from the 19th century poet Byron that it is "the most medieval town in Europe". So let us propose objections to canonization; let us play devil's advocate.

Is Bruges, in fact, a bona fide Flemish city? For 200 years it was the most prosperous mercantile centre in western Europe, linking the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Riches piled high on its docks. If an expression of wealth was required, it was a further requirement that this expression should be in the best possible taste.

But the counts of Flanders and their merchant princes (middlemen or wholesalers on the up and up) were left-footed among the aesthetes and ill-equipped to distinguish a spandrel from a misericord. "Help," they cried. And paid help is what they got: architects, artists and artisans were imported to furnish and decorate on their behalf.

Neither is "medieval" a scrupulously honest word, for Bruges did not explode, all of a piece; it evolved pragmatically, its progress regulated by fortunes of the state.

Burgplein subscribes to nine centuries of architecture: the Romanesque is represented by the Basilica, the Town Hall is Gothic, the Old Record's House Renaissance, the Provost's House belongs to the baroque, the Law Courts to the classical. The neo-Gothic facade of the prison was a gift of the 1930s, while the Holiday Inn promises to unveil its tomato ketchup countenance in 1991.

Further questions of integrity arise by taunts concerning deception, by things not being what they purport to be.

The charming little hunchback bridge, the Bonifaciusbrug, between the Church of Our Lady and the Arenaschuis Garden, has a corner stone dated 1634, although the bridge is but a recent addition of 1910.

Most of the wooden facades are fake (though not the one in Kortewinkel), the originals having been dismantled in the 17th and 18th centuries as potential fire hazards. The melodious Gregorian chants you hear in the Basilica of the Holy Blood are indeed Gregorian chants, but taped.

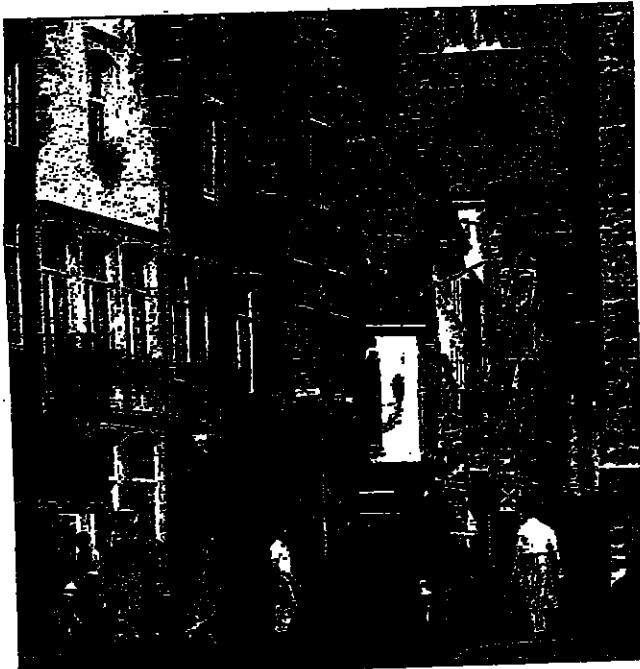
The ultimate in counterfeits is that although Bruges was conceived as a celebration, Bruggelingen themselves were neither born nor reared as celebrants. Reliable, certainly; worthy, indubitably; fun-loving, never.

While trusting every one of them with my life, I would choose to get drunk with none. The men wear solemn socks and have a natural resistance to exuberance.

Twice I put this theory to the test; once sitting on a bench in Burgplein, then squatting on a wall in the



Overview of tourist Bruges: "... but by 11pm the streets were void; not a pickpocket in sight. No lingering lovers either. Indoors, my mind's eye glimpsed Bruggelingen, usurers all, counting loose change"



Medieval-style banners define the shops' offerings

TRAVEL NOTES

● Michael Watkins's arrangements were made by Intravel, The Old Station, Helmsley, Yorkshire YO6 5BZ (0439 71111). He travelled with a car by P&O European Ferries from Folkestone to Zeebrugge; two berth cabin, two nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Bryghia, 2224 for two.

● Two can dine at family restaurants such as 'T Kapoentje, St Salvatorstraat 6, and Ghislhof, West-Ghislhof 23, for £45, including house wine. If you take a car, park it or find a garage at the first opportunity, for it will be a liability.

Burgplein. Usually when I do this, something happens: Sophia Loren or Cher joins me, perhaps an anarchist places a fizzing time-bomb beside me. In Bruges I just sat.

Passing Bruggelingen were orderly, watching the grass grow with cautious interest. Children did not pick flowers or burst bubblegum; dogs refrained from fouling the neat cobbles. There was an air of such sweet reasonableness that I knew, unless I moved, I would be found on the same

Lady that one is inordinately distanced from Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child*.

The devil's advocate is never best loved; but at least I felt that I couldn't be the only visitor who would prefer to be in the Venice of the south. Then, in the Groeninge Museum to be precise, I had a quiet, illicit chuckle. The van Eycks and Brengels were all very well; but it was Hieronymus Bosch's *Laatste Oordeel* that caught my fancy. A "judgement" picture of the "who's-for-heaven-who's-for-the-pit" genre, it was an ingenious romp, macabre, tongue-in-cheek.

The picture bucked me up no end. So did my hotel, the Bryghia, which dated from the 14th century and was perched over a bottle-green canal in Oosterlingenveld, 15 minutes' stroll from the Restaurant 'T Kapoentje, where, although I appreciated that man cannot live by *bearnaise* alone, he would be retarded not to kill for the recipe.

The excellence of dinner unsheathed another dagger with which to hack at my thankless brief, surely any city which obliges McDonald's to close due to lack of patronage is an irreproachable candidate for canonization.

By 11pm the streets were void; not a pickpocket or pervers in sight. Indoors, my mind's eye glimpsed Bruggelingen, usurers all, counting loose change, plumb the depths of their own probity. Masonry glowed in honey-coloured shades; somewhere a master-switch disconnected all sound and passion, embalming this flawless city in self-absorption.

Eventually I took an inventory of my likes and dislikes. Profits included the sturdy 12th century columns in St Basil's Chapel (but not

the painted wooden carving of the Virgin and Child with their rouged cheeks and goody-goody expressions); the pure lines of the Beguinage Church and even purer lines of the Benedictine sister sweeping the altar steps; the startled look in the eyes of one particular cod in the neo-classical Fish Market; all the bas-reliefs in Huidevettersplein; the least faded of the Gobel tapestries and

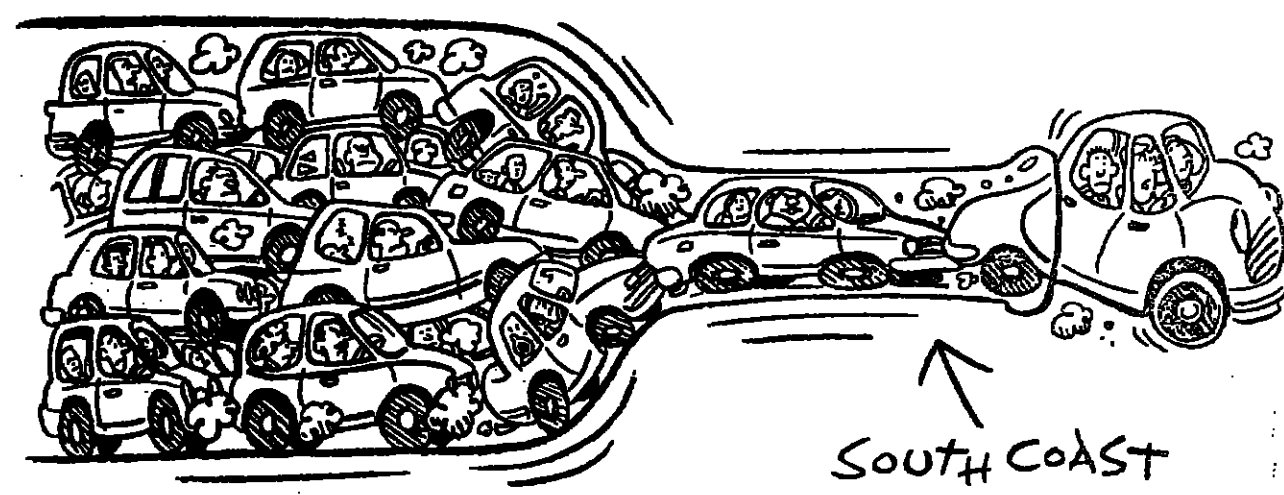
Qnellin's massive organ in St Saviour's Cathedral; almshouses at 13 Katelijnestraat; coffee at the Brasserie 'T Mozarthuys.

In the debit column, I entered several panes of horrid stained glass in the Basilica, as well as the showy pulpit representing the terrestrial globe; low-flying mallard; parsimony that demands entrance fees to most treasures worth looking at; poodles in

fitted overcoats, traffic wardens, lace in any shape or form. There is a building that resolutely declines to be categorized: Jerusalem Church. You have to ring a bell for a caretaker to admit you. Measuring 13 paces by 11, it is more like a private chapel, not at all grand; except of course for the long aristocratic noses in effigy of the founding family, the Adornes. It is possessed of serenity; if you do

not understand me, save yourself the hike to get there. I think I'm done. How are you voting on the canonization referendum: yea or nay? It is a serious place, Bruges, requiring serious consideration. Wasn't it Chesterton who said, "... solemnity flows out of man naturally; but laughter is a leap. It is easy to be heavy; hard to be light. Satan fell by the force of gravity?"

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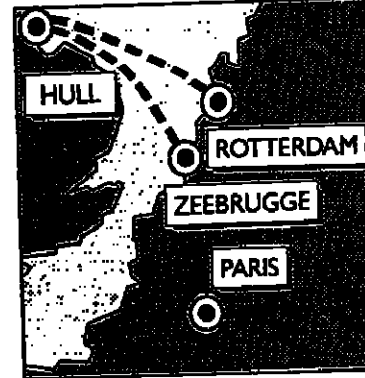
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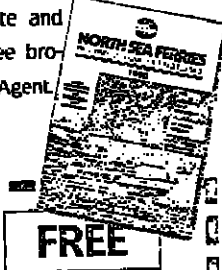
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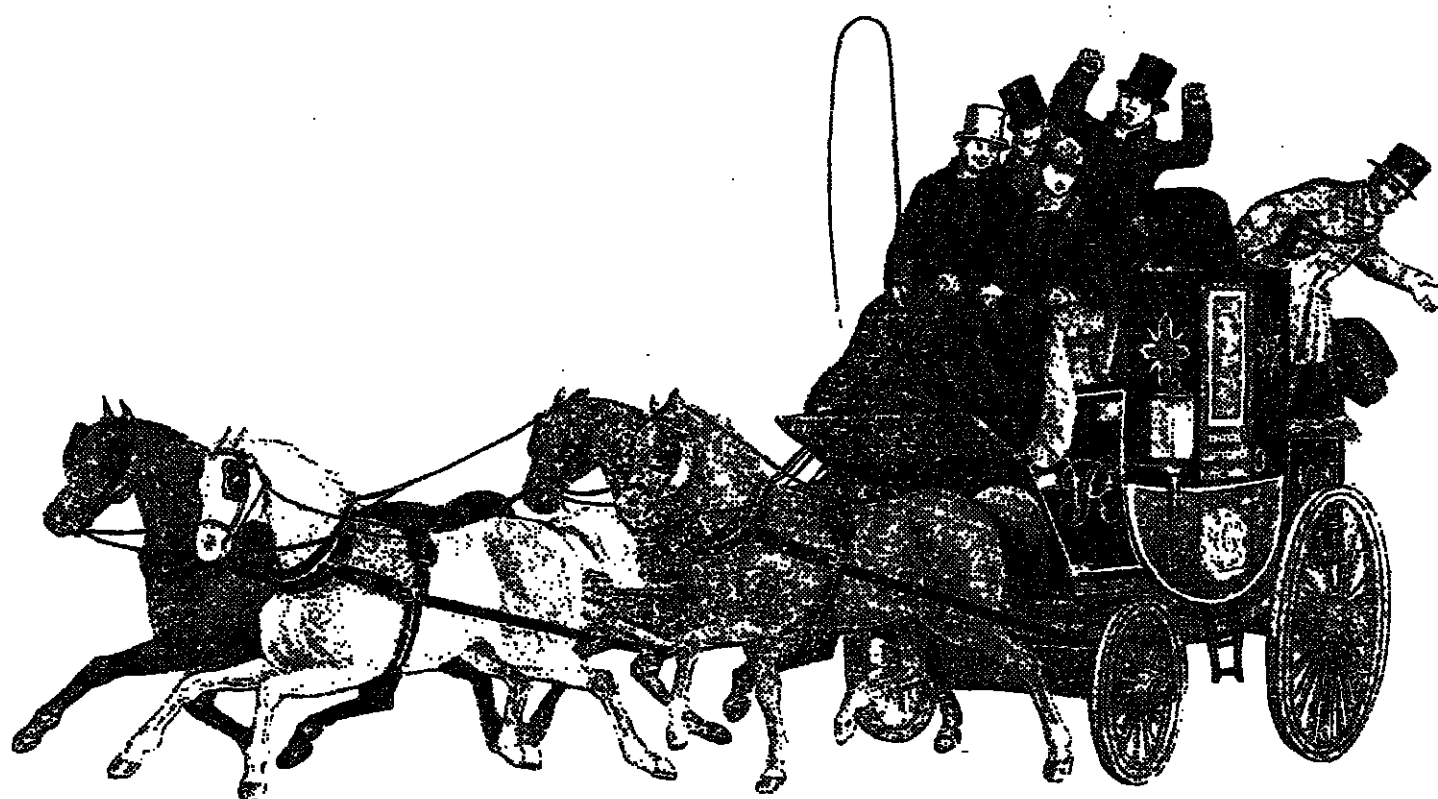
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Tradition: smiling girls wearing two-tone "habits" and red carnations celebrate the Assumption of the Holy Virgin



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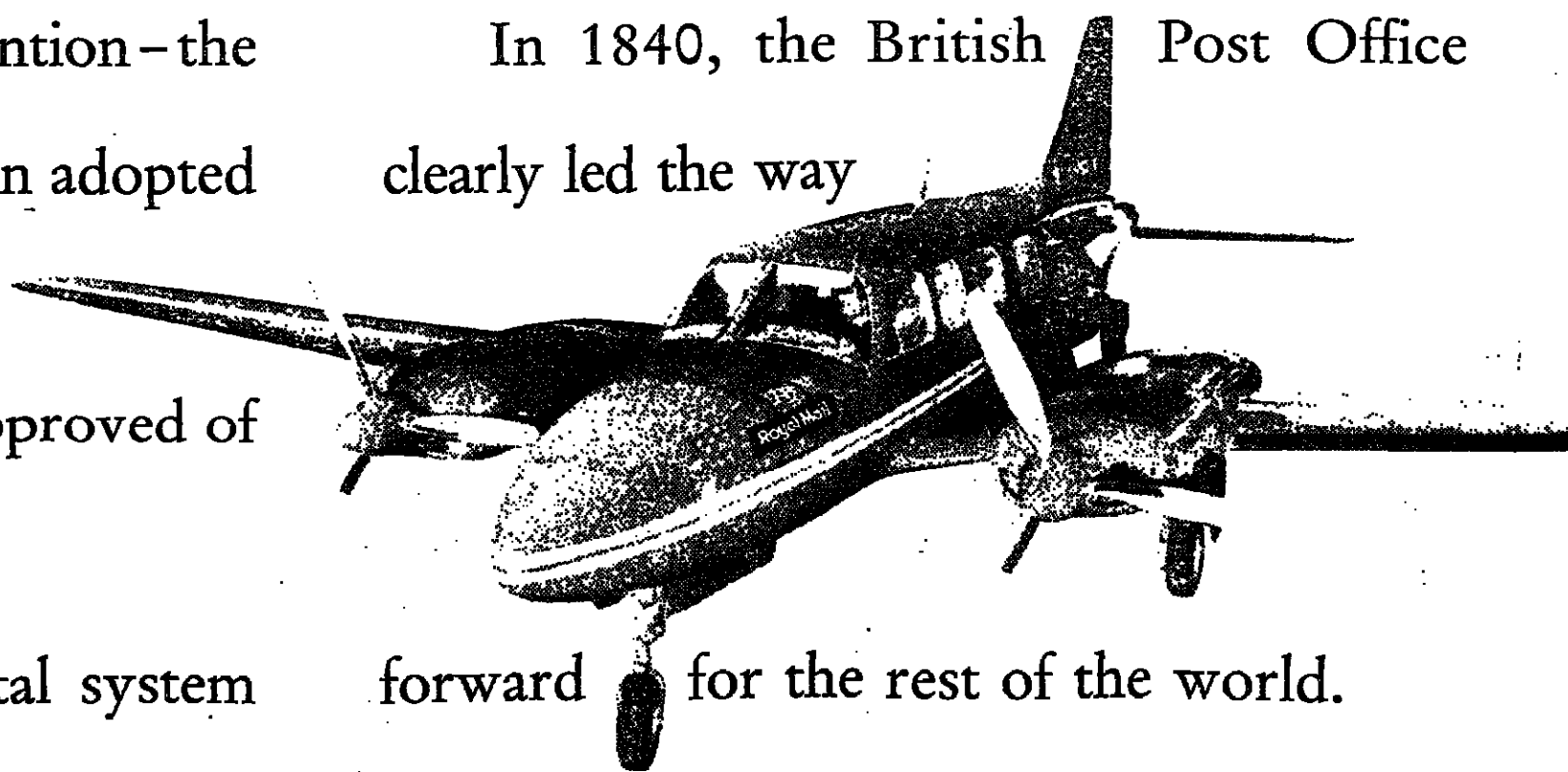
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